



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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22 March 1993

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22 March 1993

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Somali Reconciliation Conference Continues

SNA Agrees To Extension

EA2203112593 Mogadishu Radio Mogadishu in Somali
1700 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Reports from Addis Ababa, where the Somali national reconciliation conference is in progress, say that the Somali National Alliance [SNA] has fully agreed to the proposal that the conference be extended by two days to make up for the (?lost time) as a result of the attack on Kismaayo by remnant soldiers of [Mohamed Siad] Barre.

Mr. Mohamed Farah Aidid, the chairman of the SNA and of the United Somali Congress, has appealed to the Somali intellectuals attending the conference to throw their weight behind the conference with a view to salvaging the lost nation. Lamane and Madino, our reporters covering the conference in Addis Ababa, add that the conference is progressing as planned. Any further details about the conference will be made available to you later on, God willing.

Groups Agree To Interim Government

EA2003153393 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia Network
in Amharic 0400 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Eleven Somali political movements, which had participated in the Somali national reconciliation conference, disclosed on 19 March that they had agreed to establish an interim government in the country within two months. The chairmen of these movements participating in the conference at Africa Hall confirmed the agreement in a joint statement, saying they had agreed to approve a draft transitional charter of administration to apply until the country's draft national constitution was produced and became effective. The joint statement noted that the draft transitional charter of administration would be presented to the 11 political movements for final approval by a committee which is part of the already established transitional body. [passage omitted]

Kismaayo Committee Returns

EA2203110393 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia in
English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT
21 Mar 93

[Text] The cease-fire monitoring and disarmament committee which was mandated to access the recent incident in Kismaayo has returned to Addis Ababa, but has not yet identified the party which launched the offensive in violation of the cease-fire signed by all the Somali factions in January 1993.

The committee said that there was continued infiltration into Kismaayo by the Somali Patriotic Movement, SPM, led by General Gabeyow and as the SPM led by Gen. Jays, which is the group in the Somali National Alliance, SNA, led by Gen. Aidid. The committee said that there was confrontation between some of the supporters of the SPM, SNA, and SPM on March 6th, [as heard] but said it was not clear who fired first. The committee however recommended the withdrawal of all forces from Kismaayo and that only United Nations Task Forces take control of the area.

Meanwhile, Farouk Mawlawi, spokesman of the conference said that last night [20 March] that two committees, relief and reconstruction and peaceful settlement of dispute, formed earlier to facilitate the reconciliation process in Somalia, have completed their works by adopting annotated agendas. The third transitional mechanism committee, the political committee, discussed two-part positions raised on the establishment of the transitional arrangements.

In another development, a U.S. military spokesman in Mogadishu said today that the key Somali warlord, Gen. Aidid, predicted rather instability in Somalia after the inconclusive findings of a UN Investigation into fighting in the port of Kismaayo. It was unclear, the spokesman said, whether Gen. Aidid would return to Somali national reconciliation talks in Addis Ababa. The negotiation was suspended last Wednesday [17 March] after fighting in Kismaayo on Tuesday [16 March] between forces loyal to Gen. Aidid's ally Omar Jays, the rival warlord Mohamed Said Hersi, known as Morgan. According to the spokesman, Gen. Aidid is not pleased with the cease-fire committee findings, saying as a result there would be instability in Somalia, especially in Mogadishu.

Rwanda**Government, RPF Discuss Military Integration**

EA2003154793 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in French 0430 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Peace talks on the Rwandan conflict continue in Arusha, Tanzania. The negotiators started discussing the composition and functions of the national army on 19 March. Mr. Ami Mpungwe, the director of African Affairs at the Tanzanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told AFP that the Rwandan Government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF] had examined recruitment modalities conducive to the establishment of a balanced national army. The two sides are examining the best ways to integrate the RPF forces.

[Paris AFP in English at 1009 GMT on 20 March in a Dar es Salaam datelined item by Hamidu Bisanga adds the following:

["Rwanda's government and its rebel foes have agreed to form a joint army under a peace accord they hope to sign by next month, officials said Saturday [20 March].

["As talks between the government and the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) went into a fifth day in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha, reports from Rwanda's capital Kigali said the rebels had withdrawn from territory captured in the latest round of fighting last month and French troops were also leaving.

["Sources close to the negotiations in Arusha expressed optimism that a million people made homeless by the 28-month civil war would be able to return to northern Rwanda after the rebel pullout.

["France quadrupled the number of its troops in the tiny central African state to nearly 700 to protect foreigners after fighting erupted on February 8, violating a seven-month ceasefire.

["France has denied rebel accusations that its soldiers were propping up the 17-year rule of President Juvenal Habyarimana, but agreed to withdraw under an agreement between the government and the rebels.

["A Tanzanian foreign ministry official said the two sides had agreed in principle to form a small national army that would remain politically neutral during Rwanda's planned transition to democracy.

["Tanzania is mediating in the talks, also attended by observers from the United States, France, Rwanda's former colonial power Belgium, and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

["The official, Ami Mpungwe, contacted by telephone in Arusha, said that the two sides would discuss the size and structure of the army Saturday.

["Sources close to the negotiations said a force of 15,000 men had been proposed.

["RPF military commander Paul Kagame claims to have 15,000 fighters, while the government army numbers more than 30,000 men.

["The sources said it was still unclear how many fighters each side would provide and how some 30,000 men would be demobilised. An international force to supervise the operation has been proposed.

["Mpungwe said they had agreed that any serviceman who wanted to run for political office would first have to resign. But soldiers would vote like other citizens.

["Mpungwe said the observers were impressed with the pace of the negotiations. "Both sides are more relaxed, cordial and all are determined to work within agreed time frame," he said.

["Following the establishment of a neutral zone between RPF and government lines, the two sides were also discussing a possible reinforcement of a 50-member OAU military observer group which has supervised the ceasefire for the past eight months, he said.

["The two sides have also reached preliminary agreement on the future formation of a broad-based government and a national assembly, and Mpungwe said there was optimism that a peace agreement could be signed as early as April 9."]

Defense Minister Says Some French Troops To Remain

EA2003195093 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in French 1800 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpts] We have just heard that Defense Minister James Gasana today visited the (Rulindo) military sector. He now tells Emmanuel Uwihoreye about the aims of the visit.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Uwihoreye] On the withdrawal of the French troops stationed in Rwanda, Gasana said they had begun leaving today. This applies to those who arrived after 8 February, the date of the resumption of hostilities by the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

[Gasana] The evacuation has started. The troops leaving the country are those who arrived after 8 February. Those who were well-defined in the Dar es Salaam declaration, that is to say, those who were in the country under the bilateral cooperation agreements prior to 8 February, will remain. [end recording]

Zaire

President Mobutu Delivers Closing Speech to Conclave

LD1903165193 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network
in French 1230 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Closing speech by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko to the political conclave at the Palace of Nations in Kinshasa on 19 March—recorded]

[Text] Chairman of the conclave, members of the college of wise men, members of the conclave: For 10 days the Zairean nation in its entirety has followed the progress of the proceedings of the Kinshasa conclave with interest. The serenity, self-denial, and spirit of harmony which have characterized your meetings reflect the quality of the results which you are presenting today to the Zairian people in order to resolve the serious crisis paralyzing the country.

There is no need to recall here the reasons which led to this meeting which was so desired by everyone. Numerous problems had in fact been left in abeyance by the national conference and it was a matter of urgency to find appropriate solutions to these. The mission I expected from you was precisely that of continuing the unfinished work of the Sovereign National Conference by seeking solutions to the main questions which continue to divide the political stratum, notably the formation of a neutral transitional government, the creation of a legal framework for the transitional period, the drafting of a constitution to be submitted to a people's referendum, and, finally the presentation of a timetable for elections.

I note that on all four of these points you have fortunately recommended solutions whose main characteristic seems to me to be a concern to avoid conflicts of power or of competences and to ensure a neutral and peaceful transition. Through the judicious conclusions of your work, you have just proven that the Zairian political stratum—beyond all outside interference and all untoward commands—is sufficiently mature and capable of resolving its internal conflicts through a frank, sincere, and constructive dialogue. [applause] I note with satisfaction that your conclave has brought together all the necessary conditions for a real national reconciliation: in fact it has ensured not only an equitable representation of all our regions and all the major political trends of the country, but it has brought to the table of dialogue delegates from the region of Shaba, as well as those of the political forces and public institutions who were forced to leave the proceedings of the sovereign national conference. It is in this spirit also that one should note the fortunate presence among us of many members of the High Council of the Republic. With regard to this, I appreciate to the utmost the efforts deployed by the bureau of the conclave to secure the involvement and contribution of all the institutions of

the republic and all the political platforms, including those which preferred to remain outside this meeting.

My dear fellow-countrymen, as far as the government is concerned, you have found a candidate prime minister in the person of Mr. Faustin Birindwa, who was designated by consensus, as desired by the people, so as to put a more concrete seal on reconciliation between the political leaders on the one hand and our 11 regions on the other. I take note of this and I congratulate him very sincerely. [applause] Everything will be done in order for your choice to be rapidly approved in order to permit him to put his government team in place as soon as possible.

I note with interest that you have assigned to that government a mandate which covers a program likely to answer the main concerns of the country at the political, economic, and social levels. It is no doubt an opportunity to stress here the political aspect of its mission which consists in ensuring the continuation and completion of the democratic process which began on 24 April 1990. Moreover, I express satisfaction with the fact that your conclave thought to reaffirm the option for economic liberalism in the program assigned to the government. Only this can consolidate the democracy which we are in the process of building together and ensure a development which is more animated by the active forces of society and no longer only by the state.

On this precise point, I would hold a grudge against myself in the future if I did not here deplore the mistakes of the past, and in particular the placing of the economy under the control of the state, which was carried out under the label of Zairization and radicalization, and in particular if I did not deplore the way in which it was carried out. In connection with this matter, I invite the government to take account of that unlucky experience when it builds its economic policy.

I have given proper consideration to the recommendations you made to the various institutions of the transition, including the president of the Republic. As far as I am concerned, and as I had promised in the opening speech of this conclave, I promise to respect the will of the political stratum here gathered in this Palace of Nations [applause]. Dear countrymen, as for the harmonization of the laws, you certainly have considered, during your proceedings, my speech of 27 October 1992, when I said that it was necessary to have a single reference document as a basis for the republican law system in our country. We want to go in the direction of a state ruled by the law. Let us then make an effort and respect the principles of the law. We want to go toward democracy. Let us then make an effort and respect the democratic principles recognized by everyone. When you made the proposal for a single transition act, you certainly thought of strengthening a democratic institutional order in our country. I accept it, as that is your will. I now appreciate more your wisdom which will spare us the exclusions which are the sources of conflict during the transition period.

I announce that I will soon convene an emergency session of the National Assembly. This emergency session will have to examine the draft constitution which will govern our country during the transition period. Once this document had been adopted, I pledge to promulgate it according to the appropriate legal procedure.

Dear compatriots, concerning the election agenda, I hope with all my heart that the government with the help of the national electoral commission, on which falls the responsibility of setting the election dates and the practical modalities of these elections, will succeed in fully achieving all these operations. As for the draft constitution to be submitted to popular referendum, it will be up to the government and the national commission to apply your recommendations and consequently present one single draft reflecting this unanimous will.

My dear fellow-countrymen, before finishing this message I would like briefly to deal with a matter of burning topicality: the working of the transitional government which we have termed a broad national union and a union of public salvation. As far as I am concerned this matter has to be considered settled. In fact the head of state will conform to the general aspiration of public opinion, which is moreover broadly shared by our country's political stratum, whatever their tendencies. That public opinion wants the government effectively to run the state's public affairs and consequently to be totally responsible for the economic, administrative, and financial affairs of the country. But in order to be able to exercise that role to general satisfaction, the government will have to be of a nature which is non-partisan, neutral, and representative of the real political forces present in our country.

In this new spirit, the head of state will play his role strictly as a guarantor of the national unity and the integrity of the territory through diplomacy, defense, and security in close collaboration with the government of the republic. Thus other transitional institutions will be able harmoniously to exercise their prerogatives.

My dear compatriots, the crisis has lasted long enough. It is time that we all get back to work in an atmosphere of restored peace and security and that finally in a mood of enthusiasm and serenity we prepare for the coming of the third republic which we really want to be a democratic one. I thank you. [applause]

Political Conclave's Final Decisions Issued

LD1903210593 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network in French 1230 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Now I leave you with the resolutions of the 1993 Political Conclave at the Palace of the Nation.

[Unidentified Speaker] Convened by the chief of state to solve the serious crisis in which our country found itself, Kinshasa's Political Conclave met at the Palace of the

Nation from Tuesday to Thursday 9 to 18 March 1993. [passage omitted] This report includes the following parts:

1. The drafting of a single document which will have to rule the country during the transition period.
2. The problem concerning the forming and the functioning of the government.
3. The political agenda.

4. Bringing the opinions about the political organization of the country closer, taking into account the draft constitution which must be voted on in a referendum.

Point 1: the single constitutional document which will have to rule the country during the transition period.

A. Concerns. Considering the fact that one of the causes of the present political crisis is essentially the lack of a single law framework, recognized and accepted by everybody, the conclave has had the task of defining clearly the organization of the legislative and executive powers during the transition period. It has been noticed that three documents exist at the same time, including two with constitutional value: the constitution, the act containing constitutional dispositions governing the transition period, and the global political compromise. To have a single constitutional document, the act containing constitutional dispositions governing the transition period has been considered as the basic working document. It has been analyzed, and the articles considered to be conflicting have been amended. This came after having decided the main options concerning the number of the institutions of the republic during the transition period. The main preoccupation has been to prevent, in the future, a conflict of competence at the top level of the state. This has been done thanks to a balanced and just transfer of power. The other preoccupation was to define the procedure about the coming into force of the single constitutional document. The procedure aims to submit it to the National Assembly to have it adopted before its promulgation by the president of the Republic. As far as power-sharing between the head of the state and the government is concerned, the Conclave has stressed in particular the establishment of mechanisms for dialogue between the two institutions to guarantee a permanent collaboration in the superior interest of the nation.

As for the coexistence of the National Assembly and the High Council of the Republic [HCR], the Conclave has defined precisely the role of both of them. It has stressed that the role of law-making logically belongs to the National Assembly, which is formed by persons who have been elected by the people. They have an elective mandate. The National Assembly has not been dissolved either by the global political compromise or by the act containing constitutional dispositions governing the transition period. On the other hand, the dismissal of the National Assembly, as it has been proposed in the aforementioned documents is not in line with any parliamentary law principle. As for the HCR, which includes people appointed by the National Sovereign Conference [NSC] and who have not been elected by the people, it is the best position to check the application of the documents and resolutions of the NSC of which it is

the product. Considering the aforementioned points, the Conclave has made the following resolutions and recommendations:

B. Resolutions:

1. There are five institutions of the Republic. They are the president of the Republic, the National Assembly, the HCR, the government, and the courts and the tribunals.
2. The deliberating bodies of the decentralized entities will stay in place until they are replaced by similar bodies stemming from future elections.
3. The just and balanced powersharing between the bodies of the executive power, that is, the president of the Republic and the government.
4. The president of the Republic keeps the prerogatives recognized to the head of state.
5. The government is recognized to be really responsible for the administration of the Republic. This is why it determines and runs the nation's policy, while having a dialogue with the head of state.
6. The National Assembly will still function to make law and to check the government.
7. The HCR is in charge of the implementation, the checking of the execution, and the interpretation of the acts and decisions of the National Sovereign Conference.

As for the courts and the tribunals, and their mission of rendering justice, the Conclave reaffirms their independence from the other institutions of the transition [period].

C. Recommendations. The Conclave has also adopted the following recommendations:

1. The duration of the transition period will be 12 months, starting from the promulgation of the harmonized constitutional act.
 2. A follow through body should be set up to be a moderator and mediator. [passage omitted]
 3. It is necessary to see the members of the HCR, belonging to the presidential movement and related groups, effectively being able to seat at the HCR.
- Point 2: The problems concerning the government of broad national unity.

A. Concerns. [passage omitted]

B. Resolutions:

1. The qualification of the government: The transition government must be neutral. This neutrality must find expression in the following elements: the involvement of all political leanings and of all regions within the government, nobody excluded. With these conditions, the prime minister can be the head of a political party, without this being an attack against the principle of neutrality, this thanks to the balance guaranteed by the presence of platforms and of all the regions within the government. The program of action of the government, whose main points have been defined by the Conclave. [sentence as heard]
2. The structure of the government: The government will include within its structure one prime minister, head of the government, three deputy prime ministers in charge, respectively, of the political, juridical, and administrative sector, of the economical, financial, and monetary

sector and of the cultural, social, and technical sector. It will include ministers and deputy ministers.

3. The composition of the government: The Conclave has adopted the principle of fixing the ceiling of 35 ministries and 46 members of government.

4. The distribution of portfolios: As far as ministerial portfolios are concerned, the Conclave has adopted the principle according to which the prime minister-designate must use three criteria together: the platforms, the subregional base, and the demographic weight.

5. The profile of the prime minister: Taking into account the present realities and the needs of the transition period, the prime minister must be a Zairian, at least 40 years old, in possession of all his physical and mental faculties. [passage omitted]

6. The other members of the government: They must be Zairian and over 30. [passage omitted]

7. How the prime minister is appointed: The candidates must be presented individually and cannot be presented by proxy. [passage omitted]

8. Appointment and dismissal of the government: The Conclave has decided that the government must be appointed and dismissed by presidential edicts which will have to refer to the rules laid down by the current constitution. The cabinet which will have thus been appointed will be presented to the head of state during an official and solemn ceremony.

9. The program of the broad national unity government: [passage omitted]

C. Joint recommendations to the prime minister and to the ministers...[broadcast ends abruptly]

Tshisekedi Adviser Says Government Now Ready

LD2103141593 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Etienne Tshisekedi's supporters say that Tshisekedi's government has been formed before the deadline. This is what the prime minister's political adviser, Mukendi wa Mulumba, said this morning in an interview to Monique Maas:

[Begin recording] [Mukendi] There has been no hesitation; no hesitation is possible. There is a perfect understanding between the prime minister, stemming from the National Sovereign Conference and who can only carry out the will of the High Council of the Republic [HCR]. I can assure you that there is even a constant dialogue. During this week, the prime minister has met the president of the HCR twice, precisely to study the means to put an end to the political crisis.

[Maas] And to form a new government?

[Mukendi] I can confirm that, as far as the prime minister is concerned, the government is ready. It has been ready for a while, by the way. President Mobutu's political family had only to appoint one of their representatives. They didn't do it. Now the problem is to fill the posts that had been reserved for the presidential family. I mean of the president of the Republic in order to form a national unity government. [end recording]

**Shaba Group Supports Conclave Conclusions,
Birindwa**

*AB2003193893 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800
GMT 20 Mar 93*

[Text] After the Conclave deliberations, the Shaba delegation—the very one which slammed the door on the Sovereign National Conference [CNS] and which walked, chests out, into the deliberations of the Political Conclave at the Palace of the Nation—has been giving its impressions through the voice of lawyer Niamvie Kassongo, regional delegation chairman and regional assembly vice chairman. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Kassongo recording] It was absolutely the right choice. He is a calm and very experienced man from both the professional and political standpoints because, indeed, he has had 20 years' experience of political struggle—as he said—and 12 years in the opposition. I believe that he is a man who has been witness to all the developments. In my view, he can easily redress the situation provided he is sincerely assisted by well-meaning men in this country. He needs men of the transition; i.e., men who are capable of coping with the real difficulties. In Katanga, what we offer Prime Minister Birindwa first of all is peace. When the prime minister said that his first task was to guarantee the security of goods and persons, we had already done that in Katanga, and we are continuing to fight in that direction. This is why he can fully count on the regional administration in Katanga.

Next, we have the desire to settle down to work immediately. The conclusions of this meeting are first and foremost those of hope. They are conclusions based on consensus. Indeed, the Conclave was initiated simultaneously by the president of the Republic and the chairman of the High Council of the Republic [HCR]. Those who fear that this conclave was meant to wipe out,

or annul, or steal the gains of the CNS should now sing a different tune because we have just reassembled the entire Zairian people by the side of the president of the Republic and the HCR chairman through recognizing the existence of all the national institutions. [end recording]

Birindwa Responds to Exclusion From UDPS

*AB1903210593 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network
in French 1900 GMT 19 Mar 93*

[Text] Faustin Birindwa was expelled from his party, the Union for Democracy and Social Progress [UDPS]. For Mr. Matadi [not further identified], this is an internal issue that can be finally settled. He wished a rapid reconciliation between Mr. Birindwa and the other UDPS leaders.

[Begin Matadi recording] Mr. Birindwa stated that he will remain in the UDPS and that nothing could remove him from the UDPS. We must not forget that Birindwa is one of the co-founders of the UDPS. He is one of the big pillars of the UDPS. I can even say that he is one of the backbones of the UDPS. So, with this definition in mind, I would like to inform you that regarding the exclusion—which first began with, you know, suspension and, finally, the decision to exclude him—we think it is an affair that is going to have a positive conclusion because Birindwa is a very important part of the UDPS system. We are now heading toward the elections, which must be won. To expel Birindwa is to expel a large part of the UDPS electorate.

To me, these are internal squabbles. With Birindwa's flexibility and open-mindedness, now that things have been rendered positive for us, I think if the UDPS leaders and Birindwa will eventually understand one another, then [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Kenya

Moi Says IMF Reforms 'Economically Suicidal'

EA1903164093 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] President Daniel arap Moi said today the conditions set for Kenya by the IMF and the World Bank to be fulfilled before aid could be released were harsh, unilateral, and dictatorial. In a statement issued today from State House, Nairobi, the president said although the government continued to fulfill these conditions, the IMF and the World Bank had so far not honored their promises.

President Moi said the structural adjustments prescribed for Kenya by the IMF were not accompanied by the necessary financial backing to cushion the people from their adverse economic effects.

He said this cruel approach by these two organizations had pushed Kenya to the brink of collapse.

In view of this, President Moi said, the government is to rethink about the country's economic arrangements and take the necessary steps it deems fit to safeguard the welfare of the people of Kenya. He emphasized he will no longer agree to policies which are economically suicidal.

President Moi said it was a pity that members of the opposition had gone out of their way to urge, and are still urging, the IMF and the donor countries to continue withholding the aid in spite of the fact that Kenya had met all the conditions as they were then set up to October 1992. These opposition leaders, observed the president, had remained callous and unmoved by the groans of Kenyans who were suffering under the current economic hardships. He further said the opposition leaders should not hoodwink the people by blaming the government when they were actually the authors of the country's problems.

The president said they should explain why they have to put the lives of Kenyans at risk to satisfy petty and selfish political interests.

However, President Moi assured the people that the government was looking into ways of alleviating the economic problems they were facing as a result of the depreciation of the Kenya shilling. He said he had, therefore, instructed the minister for labor and the minister for finance to work out new wage guidelines to alleviate the impact of inflationary effects of [as heard] the cost of living.

Advising businessmen against taking advantage of the present difficult situation to exploit the people, President Moi reminded Kenyans that their economic salvation will not come from foreign aid but their initiative,

creative genius, and sheer hard work. He urged Kenyans to take the dignity of labor and self-reliance as a guiding principle.

The conditions set for Kenya by the IMF include the reduction of the civil service workforce by 45,000 people by November this year; the raising of bank interest rates to 45 percent; and the removal of the remaining price controls in essential commodities such as sugar, maize, kerosene, and other petroleum products, among others.

President Moi noted that raising bank interest rates will scare away foreign investors and also shift local entrepreneurs, a situation that will retard development. The president said that, even though the government has liberalized foreign exchange transactions, it will maintain some control on monetary policies to protect the people from exploitation by speculators in currency transactions.

President Requests Resumption of Foreign Aid

EA2003201193 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpt] President Daniel arap Moi today asked donor countries who are true friends of Kenya to resume aid to save the citizens from further suffering. The president said the government first agreed to meet the donor aid conditions on the understanding that they were genuinely intended to improve the economic performance, but was later surprised to realize that the conditions had immense political undertones. President Moi noted that the aid conditions had ended up being more punitive and had greatly hurt the Kenyan economy. President Moi was speaking when he toured Molo Division of Nakuru District and other parts of Bomet District to inspect agricultural activities in the area and to greet the citizens.

Reiterating that some aid conditions were too harsh, President Moi urged Kenyans to redouble their efforts to ensure the country was self-sufficient in food. He said only Kenyan efforts would in the long run alleviate the economic difficulties.

President Moi said he was saddened by threats by some elements in the opposition to incite the citizens to stage protests in urban areas. He said it was ironic that the same elements had agitated for the withholding of foreign aid and hence the resultant hardship Kenyans were facing. He said organizers of such protests had no feeling for the citizens, who are already overburdened by the rising cost of living.

President Moi said he was satisfied with the efforts the citizens had put in agriculture in the areas he visited. [passage omitted]

ANC's Mbeki Condemns Government Support for UNITA*LD1703203493 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 1900 GMT 17 Mar 93*

[Excerpts] Thabo Mbeki, the ANC's secretary for international affairs, had a meeting in Lisbon this afternoon with Portuguese Foreign Minister Durao Barroso. Speaking at a news conference afterwards, the ANC representative made it quite clear that his movement is doing its utmost to make the South African Government stop supporting the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. Ana Rodrigues was there:

[Rodrigues] [passage omitted] Mbeki said that the ANC investigates all reports of possible instances of South African support and is pressing Pretoria to end such support once and for all.

[Begin Mbeki recording in English, Mbeki remarks already in progress] ...the issue of persistent reports, not so much of companies but of assistance from the South African Government to UNITA. This is a matter that we have raised very often with the South African Government, insisting that this should not happen, that it is incorrect to support anybody who is subverting this process of democratization. And we would want to insist that no support of any kind, whether from government or nongovernmental bodies, companies or others, should emanate from South Africa to support UNITA. [end recording]

[Rodrigues] The ANC secretary for international affairs said that he has sent UNITA a message which the movement has already received but to which it has not yet replied. The message says that UNITA must respect the Bicesse accords and the election results, and urges Savimbi to accept the UN proposal and agree to meet Eduardo dos Santos.

Aknowledging today the failure of the Bicesse accords, Portuguese Foreign Minister Durao Barroso said that he does not have a miracle cure for Angola, adding that when it comes to furthering the cause of peace there always seems to be a lack of funds, whereas there is always plenty of money available for arms deals.

Government Admits to 'Secretly' Enriching Uranium*MB1903142793 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1400 GMT 19 Mar 93*

[Text] The International Atomic Agency [name as heard] says South Africa has admitted secretly enriching uranium to the level required for making nuclear bombs.

The agency says Pretoria revealed this to it in 1991 after signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and opening its nuclear sites to inspectors.

There have been reports in the past week that Pretoria wants to sell all its weapons-grade uranium to the United

States to ensure it doesn't fall into the hands of the ANC [African National Congress].

PAC Sharpeville Commemoration Becomes Pro-APLA Rally*MB2103143093 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1403 GMT 21 Mar 93*

[Text] Johannesburg March 21 SAPA—The Pan Africanist Congress's [PAC] Sharpeville Day commemoration in the Vaal township turned into a pro-Azanian Peoples Liberation Army [APLA] rally on Sunday [21 March] as several thousand people chanted APLA slogans and called for the PAC military wing to increase its attacks within the country. "I appeal to you, our supporters, to brace yourself for a bitter struggle. We are still engaged in the unfolding campaign that started with the massacre of our people in this township on March 21, 1960.

"We will never unilaterally suspend our armed struggle. But the PAC is ready for a mutual cessation of hostilities." PAC President Clarence Makwetu told the audience gathered at the George Thabe Stadium in Sharpeville. Mr Makwetu added: "Our founding president Robert Sobukwe said 'now that they (the government) rely on the gun and we can get the gun, confrontation is inevitable'. The current talks with the regime are just another method of struggle. But we will pursue all other methods."

If the government wished to discuss APLA's activities, the PAC was willing to sit at the table as long as the existence of all armed formations in the country was on the agenda.

The PAC president said his organisation was against power-sharing or an interim government, branding them "instruments of the regime to maintain itself in power".

Asked later about the killing of two people by alleged APLA operatives on Friday, Mr Makwetu curtly replied that the community at large should also publicly ask about the killers of three people in Crossroads, near Cape Town, over the weekend. "But as to the killings themselves, I have not received word from the APLA High Command whether APLA cadres did it," he said.

During the proceedings, PAC supporters openly declared their support for APLA. When about 15 youths marched into the stadium in military fashion, a great cheer erupted from the crowd, while poems praising "Karl Zimbiri", who constantly claims responsibility for APLA attacks but whose identity is obscure, and APLA chief Sabelo Phama were met with ululating and prancing about the venue.

At one time, the several thousand PAC supporters spontaneously burst into a song: "Awulethe Umshini Wami (Bring Back my Gun)". The militant crowd also openly called to be armed with AK-47s and Scorpion sub-machine pistols.

International observers as well as policemen in several armoured vehicles watched the proceedings.

Barely a kilometre away from the PAC gathering, the ANC [African National Congress]/SACP [South African Communist Party] alliance had a more festive commemoration with several thousand people pitching tents, selling food and listening to music. Several speakers addressed the crowd, dealing with a variety of topics such as the significance of March 21, the current state of negotiations and the forthcoming multi-lateral forum. The affair was colourful with ANC-coloured umbrellas, stickers and posters being handed out to passer-by.

Both events were somewhat hampered by brief downpours of rain. By late Sunday, police had reported no incidents at both rallies.

ANC Hails Conduct at Rallies, Condemns Shooting

MB2103165293 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1629 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Johannesburg March 21 SAPA—Two Sharpeville Day rallies on the East Rand, one by the African National Congress [ANC] and the other by the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP], have been hailed as a success by the ANC PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] region. Spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa, however, condemned the shooting of a bystander while IFP supporters marched through Katlehong. Peace monitors at the scene said the man was shot from a passing minibus. Mr Mamoepa ascribed the attack to "elements which wanted to scuttle the peace process on the East Rand".

"The behaviour and conduct of members and supporters of both the ANC and IFP... rallies today (Sunday) represented a major step in the creation of a climate of peace, reconciliation and political tolerance in the region," a later ANC statement read. "We hope the example set and the spirit which prevailed in the two rallies will characterise all future political activities held in the region."

PAC Refuses Comment on APLA Role in Walkerville Deaths

MB2103121693 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1151 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Cape Town Mar 21 SAPA—Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel has been trying to establish whether the Azanian People's Liberation Army [APLA] was responsible for Saturday's [20 March] attack on an eastern Cape hotel which left a student dead.

Ministerial spokesman Capt Craig Kotze said the minister had been consistently phoning Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] leaders to find out whether the organisation's military wing was also responsible for Friday's attack at Eikenhof near Walkerville, south of Johannesburg, which left two dead.

PAC officials, however, had refused to speak to him, Capt Kotze said.

"Because this tragedy apparently bears the hallmarks of an APLA terrorist attack, the silence from the PAC on whether its military wing was responsible or not for this (Saturday's) attack and the Walkerville attack is all the more deafening."

APLA claimed responsibility for two attacks in the eastern Cape towns of King William's Town and Queenstown last year which left five people dead and more than 30 injured.

Capt Kotze confirmed Mr. Kriel would visit the scene of Friday's attack on Monday.

White Wolf Injures 5-Year-Old Girl in 'Retaliation'

MB2203105093 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1036 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Pretoria Mar 22 SAPA—The ultra-rightwing Wit Wolwe [white wolves] claimed responsibility on Monday [22 March] for wounding a five-year-old black girl in Nigel, and warned of similar attacks if the authorities failed to stop the killing of whites.

Wit Wolwe Secretary-General "Boerstaat" [Boer homeland] Bosman said the shooting of Mzandile Morajane on Sunday [21 March] was in retaliation for the attack on white motorists on Friday [19 March] at Walkerville, south of Johannesburg, which left three people dead.

Although an anonymous caller to SAPA claimed Friday's shooting had been carried out by the Azanian People's Liberation Army [APLA], neither APLA nor Pan-Africanist Congress officials have claimed responsibility.

Mr Bosman said the child was wounded when a Wit Wolwe general "due to frustration, lost his self-control and fired shots with his firearm".

Police confirmed charges of attempted murder and drunken driving had been laid against the man.

"If there is no real action from the authorities to stop APLA, more incidents similar to this (Nigel) one will take place," Mr Bosman warned in a statement.

He stressed the Wit Wolwe executive had not issued instructions for the shooting, but added it had "full understanding for the frustrations and anger of its members".

Gunmen Kill Commuter in Vanderbijlpark 21 Mar

MB2203085093 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0841 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Johannesburg Mar 22 SAPA—Black gunmen shot dead a white man travelling to work at Vanderbijlpark in the Vaal Triangle on Monday [22 March] morning, police said. Spokesman Maj Piet van Deventer said three

or four men opened fire on Tony Concer, 55, and Daniel de Bruin, 52, about 7.10. Mr Concer was killed and Mr de Bruin, who was driving, was not injured. Maj van Deventer said it appeared that AK47s had been used. No arrests have been made and the motive for the attack was not known.

Official Says Race War Against Whites Not PAC Policy

*MB2103180893 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1749
GMT 21 Mar 93*

[By Pierre Claassen, political correspondent]

[Text] Cape Town March 21 SAPA—A race war against whites was counter-productive and not Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] policy, the movement's information chief Barney Desai said on Sunday [21 March]. The movement wanted to convey its condolences to those involved in an attack by AK-47 rifle-wielding gunmen which claimed the lives of two whites on the Vereeniging-Johannesburg road on Friday, he said.

Soon after returning from a PAC National Executive Meeting in Umtata in Transkei, Mr Desai said the movement was outraged by calls to the media, and SAPA in particular, claiming responsibility on behalf of the PAC's armed wing, the Azanian Peoples Liberation Army, for the attack in which a white woman and a 16-year-old schoolboy died. "It is not our policy to conduct a race war against whites and we don't know who these guys are," Mr Desai told SAPA.

"That kind of thing is counter-productive and we are outraged. In fact we want to convey our condolences to those involved. Our policy is not to fight a race war but to bring about democracy."

CP Urges Government To Act Against APLA, MK

*MB2103174593 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1711
GMT 21 Mar 93*

[Text] Johannesburg March 21 SAPA—There could be no proper constitutional negotiations until the armed wings of the Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] and African National Congress [ANC] stopped terrorising South Africa, the Conservative Party [CP] said on Sunday [21 March]. The PAC's Azanian Peoples Liberation Army [APLA] and the ANC's Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) [Spear of the Nation] should be declared "enemy No 1", said CP law and order spokesman Schalk Pienaar.

The security forces had the intelligence and military power to wipe out these organisations if the government would only authorise them to do so, he said, and the CP challenged the government to give the order. "The government must stop hiding behind the negotiation process as an excuse not to act against APLA/MK because there can be no real negotiations as long as APLA/MK terrorise South Africa."

Covert and overt methods should be used by the security forces to prevent terror attacks by these organisations and should replace the reactive steps so far taken.

Mr Pienaar said the government's idea of incorporating APLA and MK members into the security forces was preposterous. The CP demanded the assurance from the government it would not proceed with this idea.

The CP is South Africa's largest right-wing party. It was reacting to three attacks on whites in the Vaal Triangle and the Eastern Cape this weekend, and Minister of Law and Order Hennis Kriel's statement that the country had "gone mad". It was not the country that was mad but MK/APLA, Mr Pienaar said.

MP Calls ANC 'Common Denominator' in All Violence

*MB1903170593 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1522
GMT 19 Mar 93*

[Text] House of Representatives March 19 SAPA—The ANC [African National Congress] was the common denominator in all the violence in the country, and could not be trusted, Mr Patrick Mckenzie (NP [National Party], Bonteheuwel) said on Friday [19 March].

Speaking in debate on the own affairs budget, he said the ANC played a role in all the violence taking place, and asked what the movement would do if it became the government in SA [South Africa].

The eyes of every South African, especially blacks, would be opened and they would see who the real enemy of the people was.

The ANC was caching heavy weapons in Angola and training military personnel elsewhere in Africa, including children who ought to be in school.

The movement was interested in obtaining political power only for its own ends, and had very little interest in doing anything for the masses.

Mr Basil Cupido (NP southern Cape) said the ANC's motto was "go along with us or you die".

Its definition of democracy was "you have the right to decide, but decide what I decide for you".

He asked who was responsible for killing defenceless old people, for planting bombs in restaurants and killing policemen.

The time would come that the ANC was seen for what it really was.

The movement was going to use the Labour Party like a piece of old plug tobacco, to be chewed and then spat out.

"The preservation of that declining party lies in the hands of the NP. I call on members to stop trying to destroy one another.

"Who walks away (victorious) at the end of the day? The ANC/SACP [South African Communist Party] alliance who fought against us all throughout our whole lives."

ANC Ends 'Crucial' Meeting on Regionalism

MB2003175693 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1653
GMT 20 Mar 93

[By Neil Lewis]

[Text] Johannesburg Mar 20 SAPA—The African National Congress [ANC] ended a crucial meeting on regionalism on Saturday [20 March] night in Johannesburg with a firm commitment that a future constitution should provide for a maximum of 10 regions. The organisation is to reveal its decisions arising from the conference on Monday next week, but SAPA obtained the resolutions soon after the close of the meeting.

Attended by more than 200 delegates and observers from the ANC's 14 regions countrywide, the decisions of the "ANC National Consultative Conference on Regional Policy" now become part of the organisation's political firmament. "This is now official ANC policy as this was a special conference called to deal with the issue after we had to postpone several meetings on the matter last year," Mr Zola Skweyiya of the Department of Legal and Constitutional Affairs told SAPA.

Noting that regional policy can only be finalised as an integral part of a national democratic constitution, the ANC delegates decided that such a constitution would set out the powers, functions, roles and responsibilities for all three tiers of government.

At the same time, final and binding decisions on regions, including their powers, functions and boundaries should be decided upon by the constituent assembly, which draws up the new constitution. "Those regional powers agreed to by the constituent assembly shall be listed in the national constitution, subject to retention by central government of concurrent and overriding legislative powers," said the resolution.

The resolution added that such a future constitution should provide for a maximum of 10 regions—this being a compromise to some delegates who wanted eight regions. A proposal that 16 regions be demarcated was rejected out of hand.

The resolution also called for elections for regional representations in a constituent assembly on the basis of electoral regions, preferably the four provinces based on the 1910 constitution. "(Conference) also decided that provision be made for an independent advisory commission on fiscal decentralisation to ensure equity, transparency and objectivity in the redistribution of resources."

It further rejected "attempts by the Nationalist government to unilaterally restructure regional and local government policies and administrations in the interim".

The resolution concluded that the ANC would actively seek to promote and publicise its new stance on regionalism. The 10 regions accepted by the conference, with a rider that they could eventually end up as eight entities should residents of certain areas wish to be joined with others, are:

- The Western Cape;
- Eastern Cape;
- Border/Kei
- Natal;
- Orange Free State [OFS];
- Northern Cape;
- Western Transvaal;
- Pretoria/Witwatersrand/Vaal Region;
- Eastern Transvaal; and,
- Northern Transvaal.

However, sources at the conference said it was possible residents of the Northern Cape and Western Transvaal regions could assimilate as could the Border/Kei and Eastern Cape regions, making eight regions.

The view of 16 regions, rejected out of hand, included metropolis regional governments whereby Cape Town and its environs would be a separate entity as would the Witwatersrand/Vaal (with the hub being Johannesburg), what was termed the Durban functional region, N/Cape Diamond Fields and the Pretoria-Moretele area. The OFS was also carved up as was the Western Cape.

A separate input to the delegates on the question of finance said rather than define the various sources from which regional governments would be entitled to raise funds, it might be more appropriate to set out in the constitution the principles and processes "whereby fiscal powers should be devolved and fiscal transfers made between the various levels of government".

But the national government should assign taxes and set limits via the advisory commission on fiscal decentralisation, which could be chaired by a judge. The judge could be assisted by two appointees from the central government while local and regional government could appoint one representative each.

The input on the fiscal side of regionalism further states that local and regional governments could possibly be allowed to borrow money externally for capital expenditure subject to approval from the national government and the Reserve Bank. But it noted that national, regional and local budgets have to be developed within an agreed upon development framework.

As the resolution pointed out, the functions and powers of regional and local governments would ultimately rest with decisions arrived at in the constituent assembly and enshrined in the new constitution.

Speaking after the meeting, ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa said the new policy, to be spelled out further on Monday, was adopted unanimously. The

ANC's position arising from the conference would be tabled in discussions at various meetings of the multi-party forum.

ANC Rules Out Regional Demarcation Along Ethnic Lines

MB2203115593 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1055 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Johannesburg Mar 22 SAPA—A delimitation commission must be set up to make recommendations on regional boundaries before the first democratic elections, the African National Congress [ANC] has proposed.

The movement released its draft document on regionalism at a press conference in Johannesburg on Monday [22 March] after a two-day policy planning conference at the weekend.

Thozamile Botha, head of the ANC's Local and Regional Government and Housing Department, told reporters the delimitation commission should recommend the type of regions for a future integrated South Africa.

It should comprise a combination of specialists and people with a vested interest in regionalism, and different political parties and organisations should be able to make recommendations to the commission.

The existing provinces would form the basis for the election of an interim regional government.

The final decisions on regions, including their powers and functions, should be decided by an elected constituent assembly.

Mr. Botha said the organisation believed regional policy could only be finalised as part of a national democratic constitution which would set out the powers, functions and responsibilities for the three tiers of government.

A future constitution should provide for a maximum of 10 regions, which would be a guide for the delimitation committee, Mr. Botha said.

Under the ANC's proposals, regional policy would be implemented in phases with the TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei] states and self-governing states "collapsing" after the elections.

The interim regional government would operate on a basis of the powers and functions that shall be agreed on before the elections, it was disclosed.

Mr. Botha said it would be difficult to dismantle existing structures before the elections, but a transitional executive committee could create a structure at provincial level to begin the process of rationalisation.

To ensure regional governments were properly financed to implement its policies, a provision for an independent advisory committee was made to ensure equal distribution and redistribution of national resources.

Questioned on self-determination policies such as those mooted by the Conservative Party and Inkatha, the ANC said it rejected this idea. Mr. Botha said South Africa was a multiracial society and any regional policy should be seen in this context.

The ANC's planning conference was attended by more than 200 delegates and observers from its 14 regions countrywide.

Minister Keys Downplays Government Corruption

MB1903090293 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Finance Minister Derek Keys has rejected charges that personal taxes could have been lower if there were no corruption in the government. Mr. Keys said at a banquet in Johannesburg that money leaking out would not affect taxes at all. He said corruption was not at the 5,000 million rand level as had been alleged by COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] general secretary Jay Naidoo. However, evidence given to a commission of inquiry to the effect that corruption in the TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei] states did not accede five percent of total consumption spending suggested that about 900 million rands had been misdirected. He said the 54,000 million rands, allocated for consumption spending for the rest of the country, have been subject only to a fraction of a percentage of corruption amounting to between 300 and 500 million rands.

[Umtata Capital Radio in English at 0500 GMT on 19 March in a similar report adds: "Derek Keys says levels of corruption in government are no higher than those in the private sector. The finance minister has told a National Party [NP] fund raising banquet in Johannesburg that evidence given to a commission of inquiry shows that of overall consumption expenditure, corruption in government amounts to only 1.25 percent of total spending. Keys says corruption in the homelands doesn't exceed 5 percent of total consumption spending of 18 billion rand, which he says, means about 900 million rand is misdirected. For the rest of the country finance minister says the figure is only a fraction of a percentage of the 54 billion rand allocated for consumption expenditure, which amounts to between 305 hundred million rand. Keys challenged the guests at the NP banquet to prove corruption in their businesses was lower than in government. He also says the loss of money doesn't affect taxes. Keys says while the money is being stolen, it's false to reason that if the corruption stopped, there'd be lower taxes. He said it would just mean that, in his words, a lot of poor people out there would slightly better off."]

Party Spokesmen Discuss Budget Message

MB1903101793 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1830 GMT 18 Mar 93

[Studio Interview with National Party spokesman Francois Jacobsz, Democratic Party spokesman Ken Andrew,

African National Congress spokesman Trevor Manuel, and Conservative Party spokesman Casper Uys by South African Broadcasting Corporation political correspondent Lester Venter in Cape Town on the "Agenda" program—recorded; introductory paragraph by announcer Penny Smythe]

[Text] Learning to cope with tough economic times is becoming part of South African life. Yesterday's controversial, and the possibly last budget of the tricameral parliament, is going to put an even greater strain on our personal financial resources. For a political perspective on the budget, Lester Venter spoke earlier this evening in our parliamentary studios to Dr. Francois Jacobsz, the National Party [NP] spokesman on finance, Mr. Casper Uys of the Conservative Party [CP], Mr. Ken Andrew of the Democratic Party [DP], and the ANC's [African National Congress] Mr. Trevor Manuel.

[Venter] Gentlemen, this budget comes at a time when South Africa is in a unique process of transformation, so let's begin by asking Dr. Jacobsz. What was the aim of the budget?

[Jacobsz] As I see it, the basic idea behind the budget was to lay the foundation for a slightly sound budget, which in the medium term, and I must say the medium term not the long term, would provide very attractive economic dividends for the total population of South Africa. In order to do that, it had to provide opportunities first of all, for an economic growth, which must be generated in the first instance by the private sector; and secondly, had to address many of the backlogs that exist, and also make funds available for socioeconomic development. Thirdly, it had to place emphasis on the restructuring of the tax system by placing more emphasis on consumption tax, indirect taxation; and then fourthly, to expand the financial discipline with regard to Government consumption expenditure.

[Venter] Well, there's the government or the National Party's statement on the aim of the budget, and in fact, talking about a unique process of transformation, we have an extra-parliamentary party participating in the discussion on the budget. So Trevor Manuel, let's begin with you. Will the government succeed in those aims according to that document?

[Manuel] Just before dealing with that Lester, an important point that must be made is that this debate should have taken place with the minister of finance. We've been denied seemingly by SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] the right to debate the issue with the minister, and I think Ken, you share the same concerns, and that is most unfortunate in the circumstances. But as to whether the government will succeed in their objectives, and the themes of the budget are: discipline and growth.

On discipline, as the ANC we would like to commend the minister of this cautious approach to reducing the deficit down to 6.8 percent. If he'd taken it any further, it would

have had very serious economic consequences. But discipline doesn't end there. Discipline is about putting in place systems that can put checks and balances on the overall expenditure, and if we look back on last year, apart from the justifiable expenditure on drought relief, much of the 6.5 billion over expenditure was in fact complete wastage. That kind of discipline still doesn't exist.

On the growth side, there's very little to stimulate growth. The minister has spoken about the neutrality of revenue, notwithstanding the deduction of corporate taxes...

[Venter, interrupting] May I interrupt you on this point. Many of these are issues I would like us to touch on. Just briefly, the aims set out by Dr. Jacobsz, do you think that they will be met, according to what is laid out in the budget?

[Manuel] Noble aims, but not achievable in the short term.

[Venter] Mr. Uys of the Conservative Party, your view on that?

[Uys] I agree to a certain extent with Dr. Jacobsz, but I think the main aim of the present budget is to redress the wrongs of the past, and we're in an economic mess right at the moment for various reasons. We haven't got the time to listen to them. But on the contrary, we in the Conservative Party are of the opinion that this present budget is far too harsh on the ordinary man in the street.

[Venter] I would like to take that point up later, but Ken Andrew, your response on the stated items.

[Andrew] I have problems with the objectives of the budget and what's supposed to be achieved. We believe the budget should have had three objectives, many of which Francois has mentioned, but I don't think the budget achieves them. The first is a sound basis for long-term growth, an essential element for that is fiscal discipline. And I don't believe this budget has this at all. If you go into the figures, expenditure is up nearly 14 percent on a comparable basis compared with last year, and that is bad news. And the question is, who's bearing that burden? It's a tough budget, it's a tough economic climate, but the burden is being born not by the government, not each share, but by the ordinary person in the street. If you look at VAT [value-added tax], you look at petrol, you look at excise duties, you look even at individual income tax, they've all gone up far more than the expenditure, so on that score it fails.

Short-term economic growth is a second element, and we believe a major factor is lack of confidence caused by instability, and a major economic cause of that—because obviously there are important political causes too—is unemployment, and we think that the amount of money allocated for short term job creation is totally inadequate; and the third objective—the final one—is alleviation of suffering. There are a number of good things

being done, equalizing pensions and so on, but again the job-creation element, which should have been a cardinal element of expenditure in this budget, is not there in sufficient quantities.

[Venter] Let's get to that point a little later. Dr. Jacobsz, the question of discipline, government discipline, seems to be one of the primary themes that have come out of these points of view. What do you say to lack of discipline in government spending, holding government spending back in the budget?

[Jacobsz] Well, I certainly agree that the discipline could definitely improve, but if you look at the budget, certain steps have also been taken there: that consumption expenditure has to reduce by something like about 5.5 billion over the next 2 years. But if you go further into this matter, you find out, too, that there are very strict management plans that have been developed in all the departments, specifically to address the points that have been raised by Ken and also by my other colleagues here, about how government expenditure should be brought under control. May I just say this, that I agree that fiscal discipline is an extremely important thing, but economic growth, I think, is one of the most important things that we have to go for. Now, in the short term, and also in the medium term...

[Venter, interrupting] Let's have Trevor Manuel now.

[Manuel] You see, the problem about discipline is that it's a holistic process, because the sincerity of the minister in prudentially dealing with a deficit is going to be wiped out if you have the same levels of expenditure, as we've seen in the past. But on the expenditure side, there's still a lot that needs serious attention. For instance, the 3.7 billion in the defense secret account. Francois, what are you going to do with the 3.7 billion rands?

You say increase socioeconomic expenditure. How many houses are going to be built over the next year? And then I'd also like you, as a representative of the NP, to explain to my mother who is out there and listening now, why she has to wait 6 months for the equalization of her pension. Those issues are not being addressed.

[Venter] Would you like to take up the challenge? Why 6 months before pensions are equalized?

[Jacobsz] Well, I think possibly that has to be looked at from the point of view of the availability of funds. Most things that we have to do in South Africa today have to be looked upon against the background of affordability. Where you have the money, you can do certain things.

But let me come back to this question of discipline asked here today. I am quite convinced that, looking at the general approach that the minister of finance had, that a lot of emphasis is going to be placed on maintaining discipline, and there are some very encouraging steps that have been taken in this regard. The minister of state expenditure has done a lot of things in this regard as well.

But may I just come back again to growth—and I'd like us to address that point a little later, if you don't mind...

[Andrew, interrupting] Can we come back to...

[Venter, interrupting] Ken Andrew wanted to come in on this.

[Andrew] Yes. I think it is vitally important, because it's not the words. I've been a member of Parliament for nearly 13 years. Every single year, the minister of finance talks about fiscal discipline, macroeconomic balances, all these fancy terms, but what do the figures show? We're living in a climate where inflation is about 11 percent, but VAT [value-added tax] is going up 43 percent; individual tax, 17 percent; fuel levies, 12 percent; excise duty, 11 percent. That's 12 billion extra for the government. That works out to nearly 1,700 rands for every single family in this country, extra tax this year, when we have the unemployment, stagnant salary levels that we have.

Now the deficit before borrowing, the reduction in that deficit, is less even than the savings on special drought aid from last year. So that's not a great achievement either. And if you look at other areas: 16 billion is being voted for self-governing homelands and TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei]. We've seen the corruption, we've seen the maladministration. What discipline is the government going to apply to that? We heard nothing about that. Rationalization, doing away with Own Affairs; rationalization of services. We heard nothing about that. Where are all those savings? That's where we need the money to come from.

[Venter] Let's just bring the voice of the CP in on this. Do you believe that the government is exercising enough discipline?

[Uys] I agree to a great extent with what Ken just now said. Year after year we've been told by one minister after the other they'll contain the state expenditure, and they'll bring inflation down, etc. But by the end of the day it's not reached. Last year the minister budgeted for a deficit of about 14 billion. We ended up with a deficit of 28 billion.

[Venter] Let me bring in an outsider's voice on this question of discipline. We see that while there is some attempt to hold government spending back, nevertheless the costs of Parliament are up by nearly 30 percent, and that really amounts to, as far as I understand it, salaries and benefits to members of Parliament. That brings in most of the people here. Ken Andrew, is the DP happy with taking that increase in salaries in view of what you've just said?

[Andrew] Yes. May I say one sees the figure in the budget. I have no idea of how that is calculated. But let me say absolutely, categorically, there is no way the DP will accept salary adjustments any different from the civil service. If the government cannot afford to give

them to teachers and other civil servants, they must not be given to members of Parliament or Cabinet.

[Venter] I'll come back to Trevor Manuel. Let's just hear Mr. Casper Uys on that.

[Uys] I agree with Ken.

[Venter] So that money that you are saying [changes thought] the two parties, the Conservative Party and Democratic Party, will take a five percent increase like the rest of the civil service?

[Andrew] I haven't got a mandate to talk on behalf of my party, but I have no doubt that that will be our approach.

[Manuel] May the same apply in respect of cars. You see, unless you have moral leadership coming from the political leadership, unless you have cabinet saying we will forego these lavish costs on [changes thought] that have been paid to us by taxpayers for living in our own houses, the government has no moral right to say to civil servants, or anybody else in South Africa—you have to take the new bill. That's the one point. The other side of discipline is the budgetary process. Now, this anomaly of having a Ministry of Finance that has to find money and a Ministry of State Expenditure that has to spend money has to end and end immediately.

[Andrew] Yes, yes, absolutely.

[Manuel] The second point, the second point is that the budgetary process doesn't allow for discipline because unless you are setting targets you have nothing against which to measure the performance of expenditure in this country.

[Venter] Forgive me for interrupting. I just want to hold it in the time available to us ... to that discipline, and before we leave the issue of discipline, parliamentary allowances. Dr. Jacobsz, do you want to come in on that point before we go back to the issue of growth?

[Jacobsz] Well, I think Trevor is absolutely right. Certain objectives have to be set and you have to stick to those objectives. Now that is perceptively one of the major objectives of the management plans that have been worked out in the departments. They have to abide by these and they're accountable to Parliament for maintaining these levels of ...

[Manuel, interrupting] But you need a transparent process in order to agree. You need a fiscal commission to start with. The government has not suggested that the budget, in fact, ignores [changes thought] that such proposals have been offered by a range of sources—fiscal commission, performance auditors office. Mr. Keys is having none of this right now.

[Venter] Forgive me, gentlemen, if I suggest we leave the question of the process in abeyance to tackle the issue of growth. Dr. Jacobsz would you like to just briefly, in a sentence or so, underline your statement that the budget will create growth and then a response please, gentlemen.

[Jacobsz] Well, I think one must be absolutely realistic. I don't think its going to create a tremendous amount of growth in the short-term. It's going to be a more medium-term approach. But what we have to look at is this: that the major stimulator for growth is the private sector. You can't look to the government to stimulate growth. It's got to come from the private sector. Now if you see what has been done now, as far as the small business sector is concerned, I think that's an encouraging sign. There's about 112 hundred [changes thought] yes, 112 million has been set aside for that, which will be allocated by the Small Business Development Corporation but also in conjunction with inputs from the Economic Forum. That, I think, is an extremely important development for us, because the reason why I say that is the small business sector is the greatest provider of growth, and also the creator of jobs.

[Venter] Let's take that point to Mr. Uys. Mr. Uys, does the budget create enough of a partnership between government and the private sector?

[Uys] I agree with Dr. Jacobsz. In the last instance growth depends on the private sector, in the final analysis, but it is the task of the government, and especially the minister of finance, through fiscal policy and monetary policy, to supply the infrastructure.

[Venter] Well, on this point then, from the opposition we've got one agreement. Trevor Manuel?

[Manuel] I think what is happening in respect of small- and medium-scale enterprises is encouraging, not enough, but certainly the right signal. But one has to take a broader view of growth. The supply-side approach, which is coming through this budget, the supply-side approach which is there in the normative economic model, doesn't necessarily equal growth.

Firstly, you're taxing poorer people more. They can spend less. Secondly, you're cutting back on the aggregates of state expenditure and, therefore, far less money is going into the economy. And thirdly, there's no historical evidence that if you cut taxes to the private sector you stimulate growth. In fact we've seen such an outflow of capital from South Africa, we've seen minimization of taxes already, and the 40 percent is in fact very high because there are few large corporations that pay more than 30 percent in South Africa.

[Venter] Let's take the issue of growth to Ken Andrew.

[Andrew] Yes, I think you've got to look at it two ways. First of all, the government expenditure is the highest level that it has been that I'm aware of since the Second World War, so in terms of giving space for the private sector, that's all theory. I mean, I agree, that in the end the growth has got to come from the private sector, but this budget is taking more money out of the private sector as a proportion of GDP [Gross Domestic Product] than any other large budget that I am aware of since the Second World War.

You have to look at the short-term things, so as far as job creation, I think [changes thought] and unemployment ... I think that's the number one priority. And in the short term the government has got to take a more pro-active role and we would have been looking, not at putting a 112 million or 200 million, we would have been looking at putting 2 billion into that kind of program, building schools, houses, roads, clinics, together with nongovernment organizations, in consultation, negotiation and so on. And then you would have got the stability, because at present people are not investing because we're in an unstable climate, and I believe that ...

[Venter] Alright, Ken Andrew ...

[Manuel, interrupting] Chairman, why not take, why not take that 2 billion out of the defense special account.

[Venter] Gentlemen, we have to—I heard a nod of—a grunt of assent from Dr. Jacobsz that unemployment was the number one issue. Gentlemen, thanks for being with us tonight on Agenda. That was the political parties debating amongst themselves the meaning and the aims and the feasibility of achieving those aims of the budget, and from Parliament, that's it from us.

22 Mar Review of Press Editorials, Commentaries MB2203121893

[Editorial Report]

WORK IN PROGRESS

'Last Lap' Before Elected Constituent Assembly—Braamfontein WORK IN PROGRESS in English for March declares in its editorial on the back of the front cover that South Africa "seems to be entering the last lap towards an elected constituent assembly." The African National Congress, ANC, the National Party, NP, and Inkatha "seem to have arrived at a workable understanding about the way forward, despite the real differences that continue to separate them." Even government seems "to be willing to move forward with breakneck speed." But "is it too good to be true?" "The government is not known for keeping its word, and who knows when Inkatha's Buthelezi might go off the rails again. In any case, while consensus on the process towards democracy is being reached in the centre, at the right and left extremes there are still mumbles and growls of discontent."

SUNDAY STAR

Killings Should Not Hinder Democratic Government Elections—Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English for 21 January in its page 26 editorial says that "while there is now an onus on the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] to condemn the suspected APLA [Azanian People's Liberation Army] attack" on white targets near Walkerville, this attack "must not be used by Government as a reason to exclude the PAC from next month's multiparty talks." "We dare not allow anything,

including such brutal deeds, to divert the country from the only course it can possibly follow, namely the election of a democratic government. The alternative would be to let this country sink to such depths that massacres of schoolchildren become commonplace."

THE STAR

Debate Over Name for Negotiating Forum—It is "no real surprise" to Johannesburg THE STAR in English for 22 March in a page 14 editorial that the name of the reconstituted negotiating forum is one of the snags that the latest multiparty talks have run into. However, "it is encouraging that the major players seem willing to accommodate the objections of others, and nobody wants arguments over the name to prevent negotiations resuming on April 1 as scheduled. Everybody now realises that the major issues at stake are too vital to allow that."

Namibian Independence Example—A second editorial on the same page refers to Namibia's third independence celebrations, noting that while it is "by no means a perfect country," it is "working." "The economy is ticking over, violence and crime levels are enviable by South African standards, and there is no evidence of consuming corruption. It is a pleasure to visit Namibia; a welcome example in Africa of the feasibility of black and white living together in harmony. None of the apocalyptic scenarios materialised with the onset of equal rights after decades of struggle and all-out war; the sky did not fall in for whites, and they have not been dispossessed."

BUSINESS DAY

Public Sector Labor Unrest To Disrupt Negotiations—"Despite the kneejerk reactions from the ANC and Cosatu [Congress of South African Trade Unions] to the Budget's VAT [value-added tax] rate increase, it seems that Finance Minister Derek Keys has done enough to dampen the threat of destructive protest," notes a page 4 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 22 March. But "obscured last week by other Budget news is the threat of widespread labour unrest in the public sector sparked by the 5 percent cap (excluding notch increases) placed on the overall payroll increase." "It is debatable whether public sector labour relations management has the talent or imagination the situation requires—as last year's hospital strike showed. But if we are to avoid a public sector labour crisis, which could easily destabilise the political process, the planning must begin now."

SOWETAN

'Rival Armed Bands' Running Lives of South Africans—"We continue to have different parties holding separate rallies to remember the past," declares a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 22 March, referring to the rallies held in the Vaal Triangle commemorating the Sharpeville shooting in 1960 when "69 unarmed men, women and children were shot dead." "In short, bitter bile still courses through the veins of the nation. If we do not want to see this country becoming another Lebanon, with rival armed bands running our lives, we need solutions. We need political solutions."

Angola

Envoy to OAS Discusses Relations With U.S.

MB2003144893 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Studio interview with Jose Patricio, Angolan ambassador to the OAS, by announcer Edgar Cunha in Luanda on 19 March—live]

[Text] [Cunha] In the next few minutes, we will talk about relations between Angola and the United States. Jose Patricio, Angolan ambassador to the OAS, based in Washington, is here in the studio this evening. A very good evening, Mr. Ambassador.

[Patricio] A very good evening.

[Cunha] It was thought that with the swearing-in of the new U.S. Administration, U.S. policy toward Angola would change. It all seems to have been an illusion. Is that true?

[Patricio] Not really. It is true that there were some expectations when the Democrats came to power. It is important to remember, however, that the Democrats have not been in power for three administrations. That is, 12 years. This makes the transitional process very slow. That is why at present the Angola Desk [preceding word in English] team of the State Department is still the same. We are, therefore, under the Clinton administration, but still with the philosophy of the Cold War. This has hindered the advance of the process, particularly recognition of the Angolan Government.

All the same, I must say that the administration identified 29 international conflicts. Angola is one of the countries afflicted by conflict. It is, therefore, our hope that by the end of this month, U.S. policy will be drawn up in terms of the administration's assessment of each conflict.

[Cunha] But during a meeting in Lisbon, the United States, together with other observers of the troika, promised that they would punish the violator of the agreements. After the failure of the Addis Ababa II meeting, Russia and Portugal advocated the abolition of the Triple Zero Option but the United States opposed this. What does that mean?

[Patricio] Well, that means what I tried to say earlier. Unfortunately, we are in a new era, with old and worn out philosophies dating back to the Cold War era when the issue was viewed in ideological terms. Today, this situation no longer exists. It is important to realize that elections were held in Angola. These elections were internationally recognized as free and fair. I think the issue of the Triple Zero Option had a natural death with the holding of the elections, because the option was established until the holding of elections. In other words, it was effective until the end of the cease-fire period which ended exactly when elections were held.

[Cunha] Mr. Ambassador, are you optimistic that the United States will soon recognize the Republic of Angola?

[Patricio] Yes. I think that we should not dramatize the question of recognition. It is now up to the United States. We have complied with all requirements demanded of us. We accepted all challenges and have won. The ball is now in the Clinton administration's court. So, we should wait and not dramatize the situation. We have lived for 17 years without being recognized by the United States. Nowadays, the U.S. media say that it is absurd for the United States not to recognize an oil producing country with which it has close relations when it comes to oil exploration. So, it is an issue that ought to be analyzed from that standpoint.

[Cunha] U.S. recognition of Angola would change the situation, would it not? I mean, it would run contrary to UNITA's [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] violations of the accords.

[Patricio] Yes, in a way. There are different views in U.S. political circles. I have spoken to some congressmen, including Republicans with influence in Congress. They believe that right now the administration should recognize Angola and normalize relations, bearing in mind that elections have been held. Yet, that view clashes with State Department and Pentagon officials who have not yet been replaced. We have to deal with this situation by trying to encourage those officials to take decisive steps, regarding the recognition of Angola.

[Cunha] Mr. Ambassador, it has also been reported that the new U.S. Administration financed Jonas Savimbi's organization with \$40 million. That is, that amount had been approved by the previous administration. Would you like to comment?

[Patricio] I think that the report is baseless because aid to UNITA has been banned by law. Once the Bicesse Accord was signed, Congress approved a law banning military and non-lethal aid to UNITA. When I heard about the report, I approached the Pentagon, the CIA, and the State Department and they could not confirm it. Moreover, other agencies investigated the matter and could not confirm the report. So, I believe that the report is illogical in that it would create very serious problems to those involved in such assistance to UNITA.

[Cunha] Mr. Ambassador, do you rule out the possibility that that aid could be provided through unofficial channels?

[Patricio] Well, in politics nothing is absolute. As I said, I do not think that the report is true though anything can happen. Yet, in view of our knowledge of the situation and the procedure to be followed when aid of that kind is granted, it would take a great deal of public discussion by Congressional committees and subcommittees. I would like to point out that Congressman Solarz approved an amendment that became known as the

Solarz Amendment. It opposed the bill providing military aid to UNITA during the Cold War era, making it non-lethal aid. With the signing of the accords, aid to UNITA was banned.

[Cunha] Mr. Ambassador, do you think that UNITA still enjoys credibility in U.S. political circles?

[Patricio] Well, UNITA has lost credibility among U.S. political circles. Nevertheless, we should take into account that for many years UNITA (had the upper hand) in Washington. It was the darling of the U.S. Administration. It was a very valuable instrument for Reagan and Bush policies, but with the changes that have taken place throughout the world, UNITA's image and credibility have been declining. This has become all the more evident in view of UNITA's stance. In other words, UNITA has not changed and failed to meet the new challenges. UNITA still has some influence among the most conservative U.S. circles.

[Cunha] Finally, the U.S. media, particularly THE NEW YORK TIMES, says that the United States has drafted a plan to bring peace to Angola. Is there any truth in that?

[Patricio] There could be some substance in that, though there is no plan as such. There are general ideas on how to strengthen the Bicesse Accord.

[Cunha] Could those ideas not evolve into a plan?

[Patricio] No. Those ideas are based on the Bicesse Accord.

UNITA Denies U.S. Threat To Recognize Government

MB2003173593 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] Movement of Angola has denied a report that the United States has threatened to recognize the Angolan Government if the UNITA leader, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, is unwilling to resume negotiations.

United States sources in Luanda told newsmen on Thursday [18 March] that the American warning was contained in a letter from the secretary of state, Mr. Warren Christopher, inviting Dr. Savimbi or a personal representative to meet the Africa specialist in the State Department, Mr. Jeffrey Davidow.

The UNITA representative in Washington, Mr. Jardo Muecalia, has described the report as patently untrue. He says the secretary of state and Dr. Savimbi exchange correspondence to further the joint commitment of the United States and UNITA to resolve the Angolan crisis by creating a durable peace. There were no threats leveled, he said.

Gen Sukissa on Mercenaries Aiding UNITA in Huambo

MB2103204293 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Studio interview with Angolan Armed Forces General Jorge Sukissa by unidentified reporter in Luanda on 21 March—live]

[Text] Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] General Jorge Sukissa once again said today that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] used very sophisticated artillery, with the assistance of South African and Zairian mercenaries.

[Sukissa] As you are aware, the battle lasted 56 days. During the clashes, the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] were not able to defeat our troops, government troops. It was with the assistance of mercenaries, South African and Zairian mercenaries, that they were able to break our defense lines.

I said here in another interview that the weapons used by FALA forces in Huambo could only be handled by South Africans. They used self-propelled artillery and other sophisticated weapons.

[Reporter] General, what do you think of Dr. Jonas Savimbi?

[Sukissa] For me, Dr. Jonas Savimbi is psychopathic. I feel sorry that there are powers that back a man of this type. He has been saying that Huambo residents belong to UNITA. The victims of Huambo were militants or people who voted for UNITA and Dr. Jonas Savimbi. He is no more than a murderer, a sadist, and an irresponsible person, because he does not fulfill his undertakings, his promises. While during the meetings we held with him, he spoke about peace, indiscreetly, behind us, he ordered the murder of peaceful citizens, particularly those who worked hard to bring life to Huambo—cadres.

[Reporter] General, during clashes in Huambo, we knew the city was divided. Which side had the biggest number of people?

[Sukissa] Well, speaking about the city of Huambo, we had the biggest number of people. It is enough to note that we left the city, accompanied by about 15,000 people. Even in areas under UNITA control, there were citizens who joined our forces and left with us, particularly from the lower part of the city.

[Reporter] If you had to return to Huambo, would you do it?

[Sukissa] I will return to Huambo. I will return to Huambo because we have to retake Huambo Province.

Government-UNITA Clashes Continue

UNITA Shells Cuito Airport Area

MB1903202993 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] armed forces continue to shell Cuito Airport and its outlying areas. Today UNITA forces attacked a government forces position 5 km from the city, but were promptly repelled leaving one 60-mm mortar, four AKM rifles, one anti-tank missile, and various mortar shells on the ground. In Cuito a government forces patrol clashed with Savimbi's troops 7 km south of Cuito, resulting in the death of two UNITA elements and the capture of two others.

In Huila, government forces ambushed enemy forces at the crossing of the Cunene River, near (Frei) village, south of Capelongo, resulting in the death of 30 UNITA soldiers and the capture of four others, 15 weapons and two rubber boats.

Near Capelongo two UNITA soldiers were taken prisoner when a UNITA group was about to steal cattle belonging to the residents.

FALA Forces Occupy Sao Jose Ward

MB2103200293 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 1900 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The offensive-defensive operations by the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] against People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA]-Riot Police are progressing well throughout the country. In Bie, our correspondent reports that FALA forces occupied FAPLA [words indistinct] at Sao Jose Ward and then occupied the whole ward. The enemy fled in disarray, leaving behind many wounded and dead colleagues, including officers who have not yet been identified. Our forces captured eight 82-mm mortars, four RPG-7s, five RPKs, and a Spanish-made military communications system.

In a vain attempt to supply the remaining FAPLA soldiers under siege in Bie, the Futungo de Belas leaders sent an aircraft to parachute food. The operation failed however because of the brave response from FALA's air defenses. The aircraft was thus forced to return to Luanda.

Having failed in all its attempts to gain the land battle in Bie Province, the air force of Jose Eduardo dos Santos' organization, as is in other parts of the country, once again cruelly bombed the residents of the outskirts of Bie. At 1100 yesterday, two MiG-23s, from Lubango Air Base, indiscriminately dropped phosphorous bombs in two areas, causing human and material losses, among the people.

Operations in Cazito Reported

MB2103062693 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Clashes between the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] and People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] troops in the area of Cazito last weekend resulted in one T-54 tank and two BTR military vehicles being destroyed by fire and three FAPLA soldiers being captured. Several dozen other Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT] soldiers were put out of action. South African mercenaries formerly in the 32d Battalion were among those killed. Those mercenaries had been recruited by the MPLA-PT.

FALA troops have also been engaged in clashes with FAPLA forces backed by South African and French mercenaries in the area of Soyo. Felix Miranda, our correspondent, reports the oil and butane gas reservoirs are now aflame because of the shelling. Yesterday, Soyo was a dark place, with large smoke clouds hanging above which is very likely to affect the environment.

Soyo Oil Installations Said 'Intact'

MB2103084293 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0700 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Angola's UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebels say the northern oil town of Soyo is in flames, but a REUTERS correspondent who flew over the town says it's not burning.

Correspondent Robert Powell says Soyo's oil installations are intact and he didn't see any flames when he flew over the town. Earlier, the UNITA radio station said Soyo was in flames because of heavy government bombing and shelling by UNITA. Government troops stormed ashore two weeks ago to recapture Soyo after its seizure by UNITA rebels in mid-January.

Yesterday, MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] troops claimed to have driven UNITA back some 200 kilometers and to have captured a second strategic city.

Chief of General Staff Visits Lunda Sul Military Area

MB2003120793 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] General Joao de Matos, chief of the General Staff of the Angolan Armed Forces, FAA, has reaffirmed the army's readiness to defend the country and preserve national unity, in view of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola's [UNITA] plan to divide the country. He said the FAA forces will not allow this division to take place. According to him, the country will remain whole and indivisible from Cabinda to Cunene Province. General Joao de Matos said this during a short visit to the Lunda Sul Military area. During his visit,

Gen. Joao de Matos held several meetings with military, government, and traditional officials, who briefed him on the political and military situation in the area. The chief of the General Staff said important military issues discussed on the occasion will be immediately examined and resolved.

Government Reportedly Prevents ICRC Flight to Jamba

MB2003094993 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Eduardo dos Santos' government has been preventing the International Committee of the Red Cross from flying to Jamba. Contrary to the statement made to Luanda Radio by Mr. Harnish, ICRC representative in Angola, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] has accepted the ICRC's request to travel to conflict zones. The establishment of an ICRC branch in Huambo would be discussed during the visit to Jamba by ICRC officials. Unfortunately, Eduardo dos Santos' government has prevented the delegation from flying to Jamba in a clear demonstration that the Futungo de Belas Palace is determined to use humanitarian organizations as its tools.

Reports received from different corners of the country reveal that the government of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, which is facing immense difficulties in feeding its already very weak army, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola has given instructions to its units to disguise themselves as civilians and, in the company of old people, women, and children, go to food aid distribution centers established by the government and obtain food donated by international organizations.

It will be noted that the Luanda government's decision to prevent the ICRC delegation from traveling to conflict zones also discourages other international humanitarian organizations from carrying out their work.

Comoros

Foreign Minister Denies Asking Iran for Weapons

LD1903172893 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] [Announcer] The Foreign Minister Said Attoumani is passing through France after a trip to Iran which did not go without notice. Has the Comoros Government asked Iran for oil and weapons? The answer of the minister interviewed by Philippe Leymarie:

[Attoumani] I asked nothing and I got nothing. We do not need military relations with Iran or ask Iran for weapons. To wage a war against whom? We live on two islands. Of course we have the problem of the island of Mayotte with France, but this problem will never, never be resolved by weapons; this is clear. The rumors

according to which I signed military agreements with Iran are false. I have not signed any agreement with Iran. I merely visited Iran and talked about the problems facing Comoros.

[Leymarie] You will have cultural exchanges then?

[Attoumani] We have not signed any agreement for the moment; we do not have any student in Iran.

Lesotho

Commonwealth Observers Arrive to Monitor Elections

MB1903151593 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1130 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] A delegation of Commonwealth observers for the Lesotho election arrived at the [name indistinct] International Airport this morning. On its arrival at [name indistinct] Airport in an interview with the media, the delegation said it has been sent to Lesotho by the Commonwealth secretary general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, to observe the elections which will be on Saturday [27 March] next week. It said while in Lesotho it will be based in different parts of the country, both before and on election day, and will meet all the contending political parties and other groups. It further said it's [word indistinct] in Lesotho is to observe all [word indistinct] and conduct all [word indistinct] of elections in accordance with the law of Lesotho.

The delegation said its function is not to supervise but to observe the progress as a whole and to form an impartial and independent judgment. However, it said it may make proposals designed to assist the holding of elections, and on completion of its task it will make a report to Commonwealth Secretary General.

Their presence in the country follows an invitation for the presence of the Commonwealth observer group from the Government of Lesotho, which was supported by all the major political parties involved in the elections.

Malawi

Opposition Movement Withdraws From Talks With Government

MB2003182293 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] A [word indistinct] opposition movement in Malawi has pulled out of political talks with the government because its two newspapers have been banned. The talks involve the referendum schedule for 14 June on whether Malawi should retain one-party rule or change to a multiparty system.

The secretary general of the Alliance for Democracy, Mr. Denis Mkazi said in Lilongwe that the Alliance and the United Democratic Front withdrew last week. He said

the two groups would only rejoin the discussions with the ruling Malawi Congress Party when the newspapers were allowed back on the streets. He said one topic at the talks had been equal access to the media to ensure a free and fair referendum.

Mozambique

Renamo Delegation Visits Nampula Province

MB1903151693 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Reports from Nampula state that Vicente Ululu, secretary general of the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo], has blamed the Mozambique Government for the delay in implementing the General Peace Accord, allegedly because it has not provided housing and food for Renamo cadres who are members of the various accord commissions. Vicente Ululu said it would be important that the signatories to the accord show commitment to the encampment, disarming, demobilization and training of a single national army. He was speaking on arriving at the Nampula Airport on 18 March, where he is scheduled to carry out party activities, similar to what he did in the cities of Beira, Chimoio and Tete.

Asked to comment on the alleged violations of the Peace Accord in several locations of Angoche District which, according to the government, included the expulsion of local government authorities, Vicente Ululu said:

[Begin Ululu recording] Well, the areas controlled by Renamo and the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] are known. I have not (?come here to deal) with that issue, though I could shed light on it. The area in question was in fact controlled by Renamo. When Renamo was fighting, it did not have a policy of occupying towns, but to liberate them. We would then establish ourselves in the outlying areas. We did not occupy towns, but controlled them. So, when the government saw that there was nobody in the towns, it decided to occupy them. A dispute [words indistinct] but it has been resolved. [end recording]

Yesterday the Renamo official also met with members and sympathizers of his party. He is accompanied by Raul Domingos, head of Renamo's Organization Department, Lieutenant General Mateus Ngonnyamo and Issufo Mohamad, members of the Joint Commission for the Formation of the Mozambique Defense Armed Forces and the Cease-Fire Commission, respectively.

Zimbabwe 'Dissidents' Reportedly Active in Renamo Zone

MB2203142593 Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1100 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Armed Zimbabwean dissidents are active in a Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance]-held zone

of the central Mozambican Province of Manica, intimidating the local people and stealing food from them. According to a report in the Beira daily paper, DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE, the group is known as Chimwenje and operates in Dombe, an area in Sussundenga District. The paper says that the Zimbabweans used to operate out of the Renamo Manica Provincial Base at (Mfungu) which was under the command of General Issufo Mohamad. Gen. Issufo Mohamad is one of the Renamo officials living in Maputo.

Apparently, Renamo provided Zimbabweans (?with training) and food, but since the signing of the peace agreement between the Mozambique Government and Renamo last October, Chimwenje have been removed from the (Mfungu) base and have been left to fend for themselves. Over the past five months, the Chimwenje have been looting food from Dombe peasants. Eyewitnesses cited by DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE speak of the Zimbabweans beating up citizens who refuse to give them food. The paper also said the Zimbabweans are trying to recruit young Mozambicans to fight inside Zimbabwe against the government of Robert Mugabe.

Finance Minister Discusses Economy, Foreign Aid

MB2203100193 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 22 Mar 93

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] There can be few jobs more challenging than the one facing Mr. Eneias Comiche. He is the finance minister of Mozambique, a country which is only now surfacing from a long and bloody civil war. Well, Mr. Comiche has just been on trip here to London. He has been trying to drum up support from the British Government and business. Emily Cas Real went to meet him and asked how he could be in control of Mozambique's economy, given that such an overwhelming proportion of its budget comes from overseas aid.

[Begin recording] [Comiche] Twenty-eight percent of the state budget is financed from loans and grants, but that doesn't mean that we don't control. We do, because those resources are part of our budget (?projects). So, we are increasing the efficiency of collecting revenues for our budget and at the same time we are increasing our efficiency on management of the counterpart funds, and that we have been doing certainly with the support of the donor community.

[Real] The percent of your 1993 budget which has been allocated to defense has actually increased, and I wonder how you could justify it at a time when peace has finally come to Mozambique?

[Comiche] Let us say that we maintain the main percentages we had last year and you need to consider that we are implementing the general peace agreement, but the implementation would mean the demobilization. In

order to demobilize we have to pay the compensation to those soldiers to be demobilized, and we are going to form a new armed forces.

[Real] But I believe in your 1993 budget 38 percent of the budget is allocated to military expenditure in one form or another, and you think that it is justified. That proportion in a country which has suffered such an attack on its infrastructure, you still think that 38 percent of the budget makes sense, especially when the amount of money which is in your control, which isn't financed by outside aid agencies, is relatively small?

[Comiche] This comes from internal revenues, and I would like to point out that this is a requisite for the implementation of the general peace agreement. We have to pay compensation to the soldiers and the demobilized, and then we will be able to (re)concentrate on other issues and to give priority to the social sector—education and health.

[Real] I want to turn now to the repatriation of refugees now that there is peace in Mozambique. A lot of refugees are coming back to the country already and the United Nations has just announced that it is supporting a program in which I think over a million refugees are going to be coming back from Malawi into Mozambique and from surrounding areas, as well as of course the displaced people. How do you plan to feed these people?

[Comiche] First of all, we made an appeal to the international community and at the Rome conference that took place last year. We have had a positive response from the donor community. Second, we have some rains and we think that we will have a better crop this year. The displaced people and those who are coming back to the country from neighboring countries, they are going back to their districts of origin and they get the seeds, get agriculture hand tools, and they dedicate themselves on agricultural activities. So, for us what is more important is the normalization of life so that they could be part of the productive activities and they could feed themselves.

[Real] I want to ask you about the areas which are respectively controlled by Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] within your country. Even though Mozambique is thought of as one country, people within it see it as very much two economies, two separate societies which still have not been fully integrated. What is your plan for those areas economically?

[Comiche] I don't think that there is any area which is controlled by Renamo which is not part of the entire economy. There is only one economic system, and as far as I know we have full control of the whole country, and the policy which we are implementing is the same policy for everywhere. The administration is only one administration—that is, from the government. [end recording]

Namibia

Nujoma Addresses Nation on Independence Anniversary

MB1903120493 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1138 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Windhoek March 19 SAPA—President Sam Nujoma has appealed to Namibians to regard the country's third independence anniversary on March 21 as a time for rededication and soul searching.

"In a sea of intolerance, bloodshed and despair, Namibia stands out as a beacon of hope, peace and tranquility," he said in a special message published on Friday [19 March].

"However, much needs to be done to bring the benefits of independence to all corners of the country."

Mr. Nujoma said social inequality, poverty, unemployment and lopsided development still existed, while homelessness was increasing and crime had become a big social problem.

"Corruption is a sore we will have to deal with effectively," he said.

The anniversary was a time to count achievements, "but we should not rest on our laurels".

"It is the time to reach out to each other as Namibians and to decide to work harder in the years ahead in order to improve the standard of living of us all," Mr. Nujoma said.

"It is the time to support the unfortunate and weak members of our society."

More Mercenaries Reportedly in Windhoek Hospital

MB2203062293 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 0500 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] It is reported from Windhoek that another two South Africans working as security guards at oil installations in Angola have been admitted to a hospital in the city.

The 25-year-old Mr. Lukas Coetzer of Balfour in the Transvaal is suffering from Malaria, and a Portuguese-speaking man, a Mr. Lacy, has head wounds. Both are alleged to be carrying South African passports and were brought to Windhoek from the coastal town of Soyo in the north of Angola. Earlier, it was reported that South Africans were being recruited to guard oil companies in Angola.

The South African Government has warned that South African citizens working as mercenaries in Angola could be prosecuted.

Swaziland

Police Block Rally, Arrest Pudemo, Swayoco Leaders

MB2103192693 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 21 Mar 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A bloody confrontation looms today in Swaziland as members of an illegal political movement plan to go ahead with a rally in the mountainous Nkhamba area in the northwest. The area is under the sway of a powerful traditional chief, Prince Bhekimpi, who threatened to attack the rally with a large impi [regiment] of traditional warriors. Government radio last night announced that the rally was officially banned, but the organizers, the People's United Democratic Movement or Pudemo, threatened to defy the ban. As Tom Holloway reports from Mbabane, heavily armed paramilitary police made sure the rally never happened.

[Begin recording] [Holloway] Police in armored trucks mounted roadblocks at strategic points for some 30 km either side of the venue of the planned rally at Nkhamba and thoroughly searched all vehicles and their occupants. Also [word indistinct] at Nkhamba were Prince Bhekimpi and hundreds of his traditional warriors drawn from willing volunteers from the surrounding small farming community. When I arrived at the Prince's royal kraal at Nkhamba early this morning, the prince and his warriors armed with hide shields, knobkerries, and battle axes were already limbering up, perspiring in the African summer heat. They were performing war-like traditional dances and rehearsing fearsome mock charges under the eagle eye of Prince Bhekimpi, himself a World War II veteran. [Twenty-second indistinct recording of Prince Bhekimpi in siSwati]

During the break, Prince Bhekimpi said at the government's request he had agreed to hold back his warriors at the kraal, a few kilometers from the venue of the planned rally, to see if the police operation would be effective, but if it wasn't he and his warriors would attack.

Meanwhile, when the convoy of buses, and cars, and trucks conveying Pudemo members and members of the Swaziland Youth Congress, Swayoco, reported to be a youth wing of Pudemo, arrived at a police roadblock at a road junction some 15 km before Nkhamba, they were stopped and ordered to turn back by the police. During a noisy and violent confrontation between the police and the Pudemo members, about 30 people, including Pudemo leader Mr. Kison Shongwe and Swaziland Youth Congress [Swayoco] leader Mapandlana Shongwe, were arrested, the latter after he was found with a bush knife up his sleeve.

Forced to turn back to Mbabane, the rest of the rally members attempted to regroup in the center of the city to hold a rally in protest against the arrests of their colleagues, but were forcibly dispersed by riot police and

another 30 or so demonstrators were arrested. All those arrested were crammed into riot police trucks and driven to Mbabane Police Station. From my office, a few hundred yards from the police station, for more than an hour, I could hear the arrested people singing political songs and chanting political slogans and stamping their feet and banging the insides of their trucks in unison. A senior police officer in charge of the operation said all those arrested would face charges of unlawful assembly and possibly other charges. [end recording]

Police, University Students Clash 19 Mar

MB2003080693 Mbabane THE SWAZI NEWS in
English 20 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Vusie Ginindza: "Varsity closes Black Wednesday fashion"]

[Text] It was almost like Black Wednesday all over again.

This was when armed police and students at the University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni campus, yesterday engaged in a vicious confrontation after the students resisted to be evacuated from campus.

So serious was the showdown, that a Bachelor of Commerce student, Miss Temkhosi Motsa, was seriously beaten by the police and was rushed to hospital unconscious.

Yesterday's scenario was almost the replica of Wednesday November 14, 1990, when armed forces assaulted students who defied an evacuation order.

Yesterday, the University was closed at both campuses, Kwaluseni and Luyengo, because the students were on a class boycott.

They were informed in a memorandum from the administration issued yesterday at about 11.30am, to evacuate the premises by 1.00pm.

However the students did not leave the campus and toyi-toyi [protest dancing and singing], singing slogans appropriate for such situations.

The administration called the police who arrived almost 30 minutes later.

At about 5.10pm, most of the students were already at the main gate as the police drove them out.

As they reached the exit, the students started to show resistance but the forces wielded their batons threateningly and a male student was struck on the head, prompting most of his colleagues to hastily back off. It was then that a majority of the students started stoning the police and their cars, shouting angry slurs and reminding the officers of "Black Wednesday".

The police, under mercy of their shields, stood transfixed like they were oblivious of what was going on before them for some five minutes, before a bang of a gun, apparently issuing an order to attack, went off.

Screams of braking car-tyres filled the air as drivers tried to avoid students who were fleeing in all directions from the battallion.

A major part of the students was driven as far as the Matsamo Shopping Complex near Lusushwana river.

When the Times news-team left, most students had realised how serious the situation had become and a bus that departed for Manzini at that moment, carried double its capacity. The students went helter-skelter but the forces seemed to have noted those who were troublesome because they pursued one group among which was the unfortunate student.

Government Says 'No Intention' of Establishing PRC Ties

MB1903074993 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 19 Mar 93 pp 1, 3

[Report by Vuyisile Hlatshwayo: "Govt Slams Door to Communist China Overtures"]

[Text] The Swaziland government yesterday made it clear that it has no intention at all of establishing diplomatic relations with mainland China.

A terse statement issued by the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Philemon Dlamini, said his ministry would like to set the record straight regarding diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

He said: "Swaziland has long-standing diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan, hence she (Swaziland) has no intention to establish diplomatic relations with mainland China. Whatever was said by Mr Shawei on this score was his wishful thinking."

Added Mr Dlamini: "Secondly, the Chinese delegation came to Swaziland on their own, not by official government invitation."

Last week on Wednesday, Mr Shawei, Director General of the Department for West Asia and Africa Affairs Economic Relations and Trade during a visit here, the first ever contact by top-level officials from mainland China, said his country was keen to establish economic and trade relations with the kingdom.

But, he said, his country could only bring in massive investments running into millions of Emalangeni if only as a prelude diplomatic relations were fast established between the two countries.

And following diplomatic etiquette this implies that Swaziland has to sever economic and diplomatic relations with its long-standing friends and ally, the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan.

Swaziland like Malawi, Lesotho and South Africa were the only countries in this region which had established

free diplomatic relations with the Republic of China when many of the black-ruled countries during the era of the Cold war opted for the Red China.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of communism in the then Soviet Union, there seems to be a more realistic approach on the question of mainland China and Taiwan confederation.

Visits between the two countries have been exchanged, a thing which was unheard of at the height of the Cold War, now showing signs of accommodating each other.

Mr Shawei who was leading a five-man delegation and spent three days in the country met government officials and captains of various industries.

Mr Shawei speaking in an exclusive interview with this newspaper, said the purpose of their visit was to exchange ideas as "China is interested in bilateral trade relations with Swaziland in the exchange of goods."

"China is interested in investing in the Kingdom of Swaziland in the form of national projects, technology, machinery as well as trade opportunities," he said. "But there are problems.

"The People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people. As a permanent member of the (UN) Security Council, it has been acknowledged by all the major world governments.

"In order for Swaziland to enjoy the many advantages in the form of skills transfer, the government (here) would have to open up diplomatic relations with the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people".

Mr Shawei said Swaziland stood to benefit tremendously should economic and diplomatic ties be forged in the form of skills transfer and financial assistance at both national project level as well as local level through exports.

But he said the ball was in the Kingdom's hands to start rolling.

He said during their visit his team had seen officials of the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Works and Construction, Foreign Affairs, Tibiyo TakaNgwane [Minerals of Swaziland], the Swaziland Industrial Development Company (SIDC), Swazi Paper Mills, Usutu Pulp, Dr Dereck von Wissel in his capacity as chairman of Swazi Group as well as president of both the Swaziland Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Dr Sishayi Nxumalo, a prominent businessman.

Referring to their meeting with Usutu Pulp Managing Director, Mr Alan Young, Mr Shawei said: "Our discussions were very successful. We hope that once the promised samples of pulp have been tested by our research teams in China, we would be able to import pulp from Swaziland."

He continues: "Our meeting with Mr von Wissel was highly rewarding and has opened the way to future trade links."

Though Mr Shawei said this was the first formal contact between the two countries, it was not the first contact. He said last October China donated 1,000 tonnes of maize for drought relief through the Red Cross of the People's Republic of China.

Zambia

Opposition Parties Leave Committee Over State of Emergency

MB2003201793 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Four opposition parties, which are members of the Interparty Liaison Committee, have withdrawn from the committee to protest against the reimposition of the state of emergency. The move, led by UNIP [United National Independence Party], the National Party for Democracy, the Labor Party and UDP [United Democratic Party], was announced in a press statement obtained by Zambia information services in Kabwe today.

They said the committee has become irrelevant since the spirit of principled dialogue, which the MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] wanted to pursue, had been thrown overboard. The four parties claim that the MMD has shown total disregard for the Interparty Liaison Committee by allegedly failing to sound opinions of opposition parties on crucial political issues such as the state of emergency. They maintain that a state of emergency will infringe on human rights of the people of Zambia.

Efforts by ZNBC [Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation] news to get comment from the chairman of the committee, Brigadier General Godfrey Mianda, failed.

Government Under Pressure Over Torture Allegations

MB2203170893 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 22 Mar 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Government of Zambian President Frederick Chiluba is coming under increasing pressure over allegations that detainees held in the recent wave of arrests have been tortured. Human rights groups and others have been expressing concern about claims that more than 20 leaders of the opposition United National Independence Party [UNIP], have been mistreated in detention after being picked up under the state of emergency imposed because of an alleged coup plot known as Zero Option. Now, even a cabinet minister is adding his voice, as Rob Makai reports in this telex from Lusaka:

In response to the public outcry over allegations of torture, Legal Affairs Minister Dr. Roger Chongwe today called on the authorities to punish and sack any law enforcement officers who may take advantage of the state of emergency to torture detainees. Addressing a human rights seminar in Lusaka today, Dr. Chongwe said that abuses of power were bound to take place during the state of emergency and said punishment was the only deterrent. Officials of the opposition UNIP Party, and other political leaders, have repeatedly charged that detainees are being subjected to torture, including electric shocks, and being forced to wash in urine. The government have denied the allegations.

Dr. Chongwe was one of the few cabinet ministers who opposed the reintroduction of the state of emergency, which has since been ratified by Parliament. He was a prominent lawyer before entering politics and is well known as a champion of human rights. Meanwhile, he has come under pressure to resign from the cabinet as a matter of principle.

Over the weekend, the president of the Zambian Congress of Trade Unions, Mr. Packson Chamenda, condemned the state of emergency and said the cries about the maltreatment of political detainees should teach those in power to review the situation.

Benin**Government Communique Cites Defense Minister Resignation**

*AB1903174093 Cotonou Office de Radiodiffusion-
Television du Benin Radio in French 1930 GMT
16 Mar 93*

[Text] We open this newscast with a government communique. Following the ostentatious resignation by Jean Florentin Feliho and his handing over to his successor, the government has given its own side of the story in a press release. In its clarification, the government reviewed the circumstances under which Mr. Feliho came to head the Ministry of Interior [as heard] after the national conference was held. He was a lawyer in charge of the treasury of a Christian association that was fighting torture. He was asked to take the post as a guarantee against the shameful practice of torture. According to the communique, the results were generally positive but significantly shady. On this issue, the communique said that, on several occasions, the head of government had to exercise firmness, patience, and a sense of diplomacy to prevent the High Council of the Republic from demanding the early resignation of the transition government's minister of interior.

Also, the communique reviewed some of the positions of the outgoing minister concerning the army, including the suggestion that it should be dissolved. By entrusting the national defense to this man, the communique adds further, the state's objective was to reconcile him with the military establishment.

According to the government's communique, the experiment was unproductive. The communique adds that since the outgoing minister assumed his duties, it seemed as though he was bought up by some officers who were former dignitaries of the People's Revolution Party of Benin, whom he considered legalists for not having been involved in any coup attempt against the regime [words indistinct]. Under these circumstances, he strongly opposed the reinstatement of the beneficiaries of Amnesty Law No.900028 of 20 October, 1990, which took into account the resolutions of the conference organized by the nation's active forces. From there, his policy in this important department was marked by a tendency to go astray, not taking into account the nation's objectives. How else can one explain the stubbornness with which he refused to implement to the fullest the law on amnesty voted in favor of the soldiers who tried to end the dictatorship of the defunct regime?

The lack of alertness, and at times, the laxity shown in the administrative management of the personnel at the national Defense Ministry was demonstrated by the 27 May, 1992, shoot-out, the escape of Captain Tawes from the Guezo Camp in Cotonou, the mutiny at the Natitingou Kaba Camp, and the repeated escaping of prisoners under guard by the prison guard brigade, which is made up of gendarmes who are under the Ministry of National Defense.

As of now, there has been explanation for these events and no corrective action has been taken to safeguard law and order. It is under these circumstances that the 6 March scandal took place in broad day light at the Ouiddah civil prison; the prisoners involved on 27 May, 1992, escaped and this led to the massive release of other common prisoners and the subsequent escape of dangerous, unscrupulous, faithless, and lawless gangsters.

It was in an attempt to end these acts that dangerously compromise the state's security and the peace of the people that new appointments were made at the High Command of the Armed Forces during the 10 March Cabinet meeting. Similarly, the head of state signed Decree No.9346 of 11 March, ending the functions of Mr. Jean Florentin Feliho as the head of the Ministry of National Defense and appointing Mr. Desire Viera as interim minister, minister of state, and permanent secretary at the presidency.

These are the facts of the matter and they should be understood in light of the patience exercised by the head of state towards his assistants and his great courtesy, which should not be taken as a sign of weakness.

This communique comes from the spokesman of the Government.

Liberia**Taylor Reportedly Well; Hospital Bombing Viewed**

*AB1903224093 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 19 Mar 93*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There sometimes has been a whirlpool of confusing claims and counterclaims from Liberia. Charles Taylor's rebel NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] has accused the ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] force of bombing civilian targets such as hospitals and schools. ECOMOG has claimed that Taylor is being pushed out of his territory and that he is on the point of being ousted from the Port of Buchanan. There have been claims that the new force in Nimba County has been scoring successes against Taylor and that Taylor himself has been injured and has fled to a hospital in Abidjan, Ivory Coast [Cote d'Ivoire]. Well, journalist Carl Mayer of the London INDEPENDENT NEWS-PAPER has just traveled extensively through Taylor territory. On the line, Robin White asked if it was true that Charles Taylor had fled or been injured:

[Begin recording] [Mayer] No, I saw him on Wednesday [17 March] in Gbarnga and he looked in fine shape, shook his hand and talked to him a little bit, and he was walking fine. The wounded thing is a big joke.

[White] You are saying he hasn't been wounded at all?

[Mayer] Well, I mean unless he scraped his knee or something, but he was walking around and, like I said, shaking hands and looks quite fine. So, he didn't seem in any way wounded to me.

[White] There were claims that Gbarnga has become a ghost town. Is that true or not?

[Mayer] Well, it is certainly not a ghost town. I think after the bombing raid on March 10th, from all accounts, quite a few people ran away, but I have been in there since Tuesday and there is quite a lot of people around.

[White] But Charles Taylor had claimed that the hospital outside Gbarnga had been bombed. Can you confirm that?

[Mayer] Yes, well, somebody bombed it and it came from the air. You can see, like shells that exploded on the side of the hospital wards, the pediatric ward, which had about 35 children in it. If the missile had gone four feet to the left, quite a few people would have been injured. I talked to two of the five people who were wounded. One of the guys was in a nearby house. And he woke up with what he thought was water dripping down his forehead, but it was shrapnel that cut his head open. He is in the hospital and another chap had his leg and arms punctured by shrapnel. The other three people have been discharged. But definitely, someone bombed it, yes.

[White] Could it in any way be conceived as any kind of military target?

[Mayer] No, in fact, last year, the bombs got quite close to the hospital and the ICRC, the Red Cross, had told the hospital to place red crosses on the roof. The only thing I can say is that particular night, the electricity was on the hospital compound and the nursing school had lights on. So, most of Gbarnga doesn't have light. So, that could have attracted the pilot, but it can't be a military target. There is no military target at the hospital.

[White] And there were red crosses on the roof, were there?

[Mayer] Yes, there's three. They are quite big, I'd say about 10 feet by 10 feet.

[White] Now, you are currently in the Port of Buchanan and I gather that there has been some military action there over the past couple of days.

[Mayer] Yes, a couple of days ago, the pilots saw a car on the road and chased the car into a house area and then dropped some bombs which went through the house. And this morning at about 0845, one plane flew over for a few minutes and left, came back at 1145, and then at 1245, two planes came in and hit what looked to me central Buchanan, close to Buchanan city. Definitely, you can hear explosions and there were two planes around for about 10 minutes and then they left.

[White] Would say that Buchanan was secure or not?

[Mayer] It is not secure from the air. It is secure every other way because there is no power and there's big water problems. But, from the ground, when the planes come in, it is not very secure at all. When they hear the planes, everyone runs out of the houses, and tries to get under trees or whatever...cause you know women are picking up their kids and stuff running away. As I say, it has happened three times in about three hours, so people are a bit nervous.

[White] There were reports from Monrovia suggesting that ECOMOG was about to capture Buchanan. You are saying that is not likely.

[Mayer] No, I didn't get [word indistinct] to that at all. I drove down to the country last night and there didn't seem to be any problem and I don't see much NPFL troops movement here. Probably between here and Monrovia there might be a bit of a problem.

[White] Now, where is most fighting going on at the moment?

[Mayer] Well, clearly around Kakata which is about 70 miles south of Gbarnga and about 40 miles, 42 miles north of Monrovia. I was there yesterday and the town itself is split in two between ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia]/ECOMOG and the NPFL and I came up on the NPFL side and when they saw a column marching in they started firing on us with a fairly heavy-caliber weapon. But, it seems both sides are in a kind of defensive stand-off right now. Certainly the NPFL wasn't attempting to take it and they say ULIMO is in the same position in Kakata. So, the shots yesterday were more a kind of intimidation than anything else. I think around Harbel in the south as well, there is quite a bit of fighting. Again, it's hard for me to get a picture because I am just moving in isolated areas to know generally how it is going, it is very difficult at this point.

[White] Now, you've also been through Nimba County where there have been claims from a Nimba Liberation Front that they are chasing Charles Taylor out of Nimba County. Now, is that true?

[Mayer] Well, there again, it is hard to address the specific claim that they control one-third. However, I drove from the Cote d'Ivoire border down to Gbarnga on Tuesday night. We went through dozens of villages and they were full of NPFL fighters. There didn't seem to be that much tension in Nimba County. (It is certain) the NPFL is there in force, whether the other group controls that much, I doubt it.

[White] So all in all, the impression you are getting is that Charles Taylor is not on the verge of defeat?

[Mayer] No, that is not my impression at all. What you notice, especially up in that central area is how many troops he's got. And in fact, ULIMO, like in the Kakata area, ULIMO had advanced a bit north of that up the road towards Gbarnga just a few miles and now they've

certainly been pushed back. I was in areas where there was a lot of ULIMO graffiti and stuff. So, they clearly had been there and (?they've been back). The other thing is just the terrain is so thick. Defeat for a guerrilla movement is going to be very difficult.

[White] Could it be that you've only been shown the things that Charles Taylor wanted you see?

[Mayer] Well sure, that's always, you know, that's always possible, but, again I went in to Kakata, and I mean they were firing and stuff and it's not like if, if the NPFL was claiming they had total control of Kakata, then they wouldn't have taken me there to show they told me that they don't control totally Kakata. [end recording]

ECOMOG Denies Bombing Hospital Outside Gbarnga

*AB1803183093 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 16 Mar 93*

[From "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Although West African ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] forces operating in Liberia appear to be going from strength to strength on the battlefield, their image has taken a bit of battering in the last few weeks: first, with the bombing raid against Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] in which six people across the border in Ivory Coast [Cote d'Ivoire] were accidentally wounded and then with reports that the ECOMOG planes had bombed a hospital in NPFL territory six days ago. The West African forces commander, General Olurin, has just been in Freetown, where he gave a press conference to rebut the latest allegations. Victor Silva was there, and telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Major General Adefunmi Olurin categorically denied that ECOMOG had attacked or bombed any NPFL hospital in Liberia. The ECOMOG field commander said that the raid referred to had involved an attack on a column of military vehicles and hardware, and that anyone stating that his forces targeted a hospital of the NPFL must be an NPFL sympathizer.

Asked if Charles Taylor had been wounded during the incident, Gen. Olurin said he did not know, but that if Charles Taylor was in the convoy that was attacked that night, then it could well be possible that he had been wounded. The field commander revealed that ECOMOG is now holding 800 NPFL fighters who had either been captured or who had voluntarily surrendered. He claimed that NPFL soldiers are now deserting the rebel cause in their thousands. The chief of staff went on to allege that the NPFL was using civilians as human shields when in battle, but that ECOMOG had now devised a strategy that effectively neutralized potential risks to civilians.

Asked why he had not yet encamped other warring factions, the general said that this could not take place until the NPFL first agreed to stop fighting. The ECOMOG commander added that Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor were in league and that the ECOMOG effort to cut off all of Charles Taylor's supply lines would also weaken those of Sankoh and his RUF [Revolutionary United Front]. He predicted an early end to rebel activity in Sierra Leone. [end recording]

And as you have just heard, there have been persistent reports that Charles Taylor was injured in last week's ECOMOG raid near his headquarters in Gbarnga. So far, he himself has not issued a public statement on the matter. But the NPFL commerce minister, (Norwood Langlay), is in Abidjan today. On the line, Robin White asked him about Charles Taylor's whereabouts.

[Begin recording] [(Langlay)] I talked to him two days ago, and Charles Taylor was in his office in Gbarnga.

[White] Has he been injured?

[(Langlay)] Charles Taylor has not been injured. On November 27 at 6.30 pm, my car came under attack, a Mercedes 200, by an Alpha Jet. The rocket missed. I jumped out, (?hid in) the bush. I got a bullet wound that went through my shoulder from the shrapnel. Taylor has not been hit. Those of us that try to make things work for the civilians around, we are the guys that are getting hurt, because ECOMOG goes after everybody. Somehow, these guys (?don't seem to time him). But they have the intention.

[White] You said you were hit. How badly were you hit?

[(Langlay)] Well, he missed the bone. It is just a puncture that went through on my shoulder and we had a lady look at it. I even took pictures of it three days afterwards at the hospital. But nothing has remained in it. It just went straight through. But it is still quite painful.

[White] This is in the shoulder.

[(Langlay)] In the shoulder, yes.

[White] So, are you pretty scared now as you go around Taylorland?

[(Langlay)] No, Robin, there is nothing to be afraid of, because at the end of the day, no Nigerian would put up a flag to turn Liberia into a colony.

[White] They say Gbarnga is now a ghost town.

[(Langlay)] No, Robin, [laughing] that is not true. As a matter of fact, I hear that's where all the girls are. Gbarnga is not ghost town, Gbarnga is still a vibrant city. My buses still run and they still go out at night, drink beer—whatever they can find. Gbarnga is still alright.

[White] What kind of beer?

[(Langlay)] What kind of beer? That is a good question. We drink American beer. Sometimes we drink Ivorian beer, or drink beer that comes from Guinea. Solibra is their favorite beer there. [end recording]

Niger

Government, FLAA Sign Truce Accord Effective 20 Mar

AB1903131593 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] A truce accord was signed this morning between the Front for the Liberation of Air and Azaouak [FLAA] and the Niger Government, under the auspices of the French mediator [not further specified]. This truce comes into force as of Saturday, 20 March at 0000, a government communique said.

Sierra Leone

Strasser, Beninese Envoy Discuss Regional Issues

AB2103130293 Freetown SLBS Radio in English 0700 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The new ambassador of the Republic of Benin, Patrice Houngavou, yesterday presented his letters of credence to the chairman and head of state, Captain Valentine Strasser, at State House in Freetown.

Welcoming the envoy formally, Captain Strasser observed that Sierra Leone and Benin share similar aspirations in a number of spheres including identical views on major issues, particularly world peace and stability. He noted the concern of the Government and people of Benin over the Liberian conflict and its spill over effect on the east and southern parts of this country, which has had to contend with a war that continues to disrupt the economic and social life of the people. He urged the envoy to convey his assurances to President Soglo that the Government of Sierra Leone with the cooperation of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] states and other friends is doing everything possible to close the rebel chapter in our national history in the shortest possible time. Captain

Strasser attributed the instability on the Liberian side of our borders to the intransigence of NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] leader Charles Taylor. He said Mr. Taylor has adamantly refused to cooperate with ECOWAS peace initiative in spite of the all-round support for them. He hoped the mounting pressures now being put on Charles Taylor and his fighters would make them respect the decisions of ECOWAS and United Nations Security Council to help bring peace and stability once more to Liberia.

Captain Strasser expressed gratitude to President Soglo and the Government and people of Benin for their valuable contribution to the search for peace in Liberia and the subregion in general. He welcomed Ambassador Houngavou's determination to consolidate and strengthen the excellent bilateral relations between our two countries and people. The head of state assured the envoy of his personal support and cooperation under the Government and people of Sierra Leone in achieving the envoy's goal.

Earlier, Ambassador Houngavou said his government and the people of Benin had followed with keen interest the political changes currently taking place in this country. He explained how he admired the enthusiasm of the people of Sierra Leone, who support with determination the revolution currently taking place in their country for a better future for all. Ambassador Houngavou reported that like Sierra Leone, the Government and people of Benin have decided to put an end to corruption and arbitrary reign and to restore a regime of liberty that provides for every citizen.

Coming to international issues, the envoy observed that this subregion and indeed Africa as a whole needs peace and stability to face the socio-economic challenges of the 20th century. He said Benin hopes that the conflict in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Rwanda, and Angola will give way to consultations and negotiations to enable Africa to face the great challenges of the third millennium. [passage omitted]

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